



Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at his office, in Damascus, Syria, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013. Al-Zoubi denied Syria has ever used chemical weapons and warned that the West was allowing chemical weapons to reach "terrorist groups" in Syria.

Associated Press

Syria agrees to U.N. chemical weapons investigation

LEE KEATH
RYAN LUCAS
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria agreed Sunday to a U.N. investigation into last week's alleged chemical weapons attack outside Damascus — a deal a senior White House official dismissed as "too late to be credible," saying the United States has "very little doubt" President Bashar Assad's forces used such weapons. The hardening of the U.S. position came as calls for military action grow.

Continued on Page 7



FIRE WITH ANGER

Inmate firefighters walk along state Highway 120 as firefighters continue to battle the Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park, Calif., on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013. Fire crews are clearing brush and setting sprinklers to protect two groves of giant sequoias as a massive week-old wildfire rages along the remote northwest edge of Yosemite National Park.

Associated Press

Yosemite fire 'poses every challenge there can be'

BRIAN SKOLOFF
TRACIE CONE
Associated Press
GROVELAND, California

(AP) — Hundreds of firefighters have been deployed to protect mountain communities in the path of a fire raging north of Yosemite National Park, as fierce winds gust on Sierra mountain ridges and flames jump from treetop to treetop. Winds gusting to 50 mph (80 kph) and movement of the fire from bone-dry brush on the ground to 100-foot (30-meter) oak and pine treetops have created dire conditions. "A crown fire is much more

difficult to fight," Daniel Berlant of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told The Associated Press Sunday. "Our firefighters are on the ground having to spray up." Overnight the fire grew 7 square miles (18 square kilometers) as firefighters gained little ground in slowing the now 207-square-mile (536-square-kilometer) blaze, Berlant said. The fire is covering an area about the size of Chicago. "Today, unfortunately, we are expecting strong winds out of the south," he said. "It's going to allow the fire to advance to the north-east."

Fire officials are using bulldozers to clear contingency lines on the Rim Fire's north side to protect the towns of Tuolumne City, Ponderosa Hills and Twain Hart. The lines are being cut a mile ahead of the fire in locations where fire officials hope they will help protect the communities should the fire jump containment lines. Officials estimate containment at just 7 percent. The blaze sweeping across steep, rugged river canyons quickly has become one of the biggest in California history, thanks in part to extremely dry conditions caused by a lack of snow and rainfall this year. Inves-

tigators are trying to determine how it started Aug. 17, days before lightning storms swept through the region and sparked other, smaller blazes. Statewide more than 8,300 firefighters are battling nearly 400 square miles (more than 1,000 square kilometers) of fires. Many air districts have issued health advisories as smoke settles over Northern California. The Rim Fire has threatened two groves of giant sequoias that are unique to the region, prompting park employees to clear brush and setting sprinklers.

Continued on Page 3

For Obama, world looks far different than expected

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Nearly five years into his presidency, Barack Obama confronts a world far different from what he envisioned when he first took office. U.S. influence is declining in the Middle East as violence and instability rock Arab countries. An ambitious attempt to reset U.S. relations with Russia faltered and failed. Even in Obama-friendly Europe, there's deep skepticism about Washington's government surveillance programs.

In some cases, the current climate has been driven by factors outside the White House's control. But missteps by the president also are to blame, say foreign policy analysts, including some who worked for the Obama administration.

Among them: miscalculating the fallout from the Arab Spring uprisings, publicly setting unrealistic expectations for improved ties with Russia and a reactive decision-making process that can leave the White House appearing to veer from crisis to crisis without a broader strategy.

Rosa Brooks, a former Defense Department official who left the administration in 2011, said that while the shrinking U.S. leverage overseas predates the current president, "Obama has sometimes equated 'we have no leverage' with 'there's no point to really doing anything'."

Obama, faced most urgently with escalating crises in Egypt and Syria, has defended his measured approach, saying America's ability to solve the world's problems on its own has been "overstated."

"Sometimes what we've seen is that folks will call for immediate action, jumping into stuff, that does not turn out well, gets us mired in very difficult situations," he said. "We have to think through strategically what's going to be in our long-term national interests."

The strongest challenge to Obama's philosophy on in-



In this June 19, 2013, file photo U.S. President Barack Obama listens to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, right, address media at a joint press conference at the chancellery in Berlin. Merkel, publicly questioned the legitimacy of U.S. NSA surveillance programs, while standing next to Obama during his Berlin visit. Though his approval ratings in Europe have long been high, those numbers have slipped in his second term. And so has European approval for his administration's international policies. A Pew Research Center poll conducted this spring, before the NSA programs were revealed, showed that support for his foreign policies was down in most of the countries surveyed, including a 14 point drop in Britain and a 12 point drop in France.

Associated Press



In this June 18, 2012 file photo President Barack Obama participates in a bilateral meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin during the G20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico. Nearly five years into Obama's presidency, the perception of a president lacking in international influence extends beyond the Arab world, particularly to Russia; an ambitious attempt to reset U.S. relations with Russia faltered and failed. Putin, who reassumed the presidency in 2012, has blocked U.S. efforts to seek action against Syria at the United Nations and has balked at Obama's efforts to seek new agreements on arms control.

Associated Press

tervention has come from the deepening tumult in the Middle East and North Africa. The president saw great promise in the region when he first took office and pledged "a new beginning" with the Arab world when he traveled to Cairo in 2009.

But the democracy protests that spread across the region quickly scrambled Obama's efforts. While the U.S. has consistently backed the rights of people seeking democracy, the violence that followed has often left the Obama

administration unsure of its next move or taking tentative steps that do little to change the situation on the ground.

In Egypt, where the country's first democratically elected president was ousted last month, the U.S. has refused to call Mohammed Morsi's removal a coup. The ruling military, which the U.S. has financially backed for decades, has largely ignored Obama's calls to end assaults on Morsi supporters. And U.S. officials are internally at odds over whether to cut off aid to

the military.

In Syria, where more than 100,000 people have been killed during the two-and-a-half year civil war, Obama's pledges that President Bashar Assad will be held accountable have failed to push the Syrian leader from office. And despite warning that Assad's use of chemical weapons would cross a "red line" in Syria, there was scant American retaliation when he did use the toxic gases. On Sunday, senior administration official said there is "very little doubt" that

a chemical weapon was used by the Syrian regime against civilians in an incident that killed at least a hundred people last week. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly.

Few foreign policy experts predicted the Arab uprisings, and it's unlikely the U.S. could have—or should have—done anything to prevent the protests. But analysts say Obama misjudged the movements' next stages, including Assad's ability to cling to power and the strength of Islamist political parties in Egypt.

"The president has not had a long-term strategic vision," said Vali Nasr, who advised the Obama administration on foreign policy in the first term and now serves as dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. "They're moving issue to issue and reacting as situations come up."

Obama advisers say the president is frustrated by what is seen as a lack of good options for dealing with Arab unrest. But the president himself has pushed back at the notion that the U.S. has lost credibility on the world stage because he hasn't acted more forcefully.

"We remain the one indispensable nation," Obama said in a CNN interview broadcast Friday. "There's a reason why, when you listen to what's happened around Egypt and Syria, that everybody asks what the U.S. is doing. It's because the United States continues to be the one country that people expect can do more than just simply protect their borders."

But the perception of a president lacking in international influence extends beyond the Arab world, particularly to Russia. Since reassuming the presidency last year, Vladimir Putin has blocked U.S. efforts to seek action against Syria at the United Nations and has balked at Obama's efforts to seek new agreements on arms control. □

Commander of U.S. nuclear weapons unit removed

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Montana (AP) — The Air Force has removed the commander of a nuclear weapons unit at a Montana base following a failed safety and security inspection that marked the second major misstep this year for one of the military's most sensitive missions. Military leaders say the decision to relieve Col. David Lynch of command at Malmstrom Air Force Base stems from a loss of confidence. They say it is not the result of the failed inspection this month first reported by The Associated Press on Aug. 13. Lynch will transition into retirement, base spokesman Sgt. Robert Biermann said Sunday. Lynch's command included the 341st Missile Wing, which operates land-based nuclear missiles known as 450 Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic

missiles. The unit failed a review of its adherence to rules that ensure the safety, security and control of its nuclear weapons. This is the second time in recent months that an Air Force nuclear commander was replaced following a high-profile security problem. Lt. Col. Randy Olson was relieved of duty at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, in June. The AP first reported an unprecedented sidelining of 17 launch officers there in May following an exceptionally poor review in the spring. The 341st Security Forces Group, which Lynch had led since June 2012, has more than 1,200 personnel members and four squadrons. It provides security for the 341st Missile Wing, 15 launch control centers and 150 nuclear missile silos in a huge area of central Mon-



tana. The decision to remove Lynch was announced in a statement Friday. There is no timeline for selecting his replacement, however, Col. John Wilcox, Air Force Global Strike Command Security Forces Division director, will take over on an interim basis. Base commander Col. Robert Stanley was not available for comment. □

This image provided by the U.S. Air Force shows Lt. Gen. James M. Kowalski, Air Force Global Strike Command commander, is seen after a coin toss at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., on Aug. 18, 2012.

Associated Press

Yosemite fire 'poses every challenge there can be'

Continued from front

The towering trees, which grow only on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada and are among the largest and oldest living things on earth, can resist fire. However, dry conditions and heavy brush are forcing park officials to take extra precautions in the Tuolumne and Merced groves. The tourist mecca of Yosemite Valley, the part of the park known around the world for such sights as the Half Dome and El Capitan rock formations and waterfalls, remained open, clear of smoke and free from other signs of the fire that remained about 20 miles away. The fire is the most critical of a dozen burning across California, officials say. More than 12 helicopters and a half-dozen fixed wing tankers are dropping water and retardant from the air and 2,800 firefighters are on the ground. "This fire has continued to pose every challenge that there can be on a fire: inaccessible terrain, strong winds, dry conditions. It's a very difficult fire-fight," Berlant said. □



The Rim Fire burns along Highway 120 near Yosemite National Park, Calif., on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013. With winds gusting to 50 mph on Sierra mountain ridges and flames jumping from treetop to treetop, hundreds of firefighters have been deployed to protect this and other communities in the path of the Rim Fire raging north of Yosemite National Park.

Associated Press

U.S. student says racist campus postings a 'joke'

OBERLIN, Ohio (AP) — A college student acknowledged posting anti-Islam fliers and racist cards around the campus of the historically liberal Oberlin College earlier this year, saying he meant them as a "joke" to provoke a reaction, according to statements he made after being detained by campus security. The student also took credit for the display of a large Nazi flag, which he also said he meant as a joke, and posting the face of Oberlin's president onto a picture of Adolf Hitler, according to the statements contained in an Oberlin city police report. The student, detained after allegedly being seen posting anti-Islam fliers in the college's Science Center Feb. 27, denied involvement in other, earlier racist postings and said he was trying to show people had overreacted to them. The student, whose name was blacked out, said the people who put up earlier fliers were just looking for attention.

"I put out these fliers to get a similar over-reaction to prove this point," the student said, according to the report. A series of postings and incidents over the winter caused an uproar at Oberlin, enrollment 2,900, one of the nation's first universities to admit blacks. Black History Month posters were defaced, a "whites only" sign placed above a water fountain and a swastika drawn on a window. In early March, classes were canceled after a report of someone wearing what looked like a Ku Klux Klan-type hooded robe on campus. A second student detained the same day denied helping make a swastika banner placed in the center and also denied he knew what his friend was up to, saying he was just tagging along, according to his statement. Police declined to file charges but Oberlin College spokesman Scott Wargo said Friday both students are going through the school's disciplinary system. □



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In this May 9, 2013 file photo, Stephen Acquario, executive director of the New York State Association of Counties, attends a news conference in the Red Room at the Capitol in Albany, N.Y. Associated Press

Private lobbyists get public pensions in 20 states

By **MICHAEL GORMLEY**
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) -- As a lobbyist in New York's statehouse, Stephen Acquario is doing pretty well. He pulls down \$204,000 a year, more than the governor makes, gets a Ford Explorer as his company car and is afforded another special perk: Even though he's not a government employee, he is entitled to a full state pension.

He's among hundreds of lobbyists in at least 20 states who get public pensions because they represent associations of counties, cities and school boards, an Associated Press review found. Legislatures granted them access decades ago on the premise that they serve governments and the public. In many cases, such access also includes state health care benefits. But several states have started to question whether these organizations should qualify for such benefits, since they are private entities in most respects: They face no public oversight of their activities, can pay their top executives private-sector salaries and sometimes lobby for positions in conflict with taxpayers. New Jersey and Illinois are among the states considering legislation that would end their inclusion. "It's a question of, 'Why are we providing government pensions to these private organizations?'" said Illinois Democratic Rep. Elaine Nekritz.

Acquario, executive director and general counsel of the New York State Association of Counties, argues that his group gives local government a voice in the statehouse, and the perk of a state pension makes it easier to hire people with government expertise. "We want the people that work in local governments to continue to be part of the solution," he said. "We represent the same taxpayers."

The debate is more about principle than big money, since the staffs of such organizations are relatively small and make barely a ripple in huge state retirement systems. The eight New York associations, for example, have fewer than 120 total employees out

of 633,100 current workers in the state's \$158.7 billion pension system.

Still, the issue raises a public policy question as many states and taxpayers struggle to fund their pension obligations required by law.

There is liability for taxpayers," said Keith Brainard, research director of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators. "Providing a pension benefit involves some amount of risk for the state and when you provide access to employees of entities that are not in control of the state." Unlike state government, for example, these groups aren't bound by salary restrictions - significant salary increases would result in increasing pension benefits.

New York Conference of Mayors Executive Director Peter Baynes, who makes \$196,000 a year and gets a 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee, argues that his and other associations have been at the fore of pushing to reduce taxpayers' costs, including reducing the costs of the pension system they share. New York lawmakers recently acted to reduce benefits for future government hires and are proposing 401(k) savings programs for employees instead of traditional pensions. But such cuts won't affect Baynes. Under the New York Constitution and that of most states, the benefits of those already in the pension system are protected from future cuts.

"It's clear that there's a big problem with hypocrisy when these lobbyists have been pushing austerity and benefit cuts for other government workers while they themselves enjoy solid state pensions," said Michael Kink of the progressive group Strong Economy for All Coalition. "□"

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U.S. panda cub described as healthy and vibrant



In this photo provided by the Smithsonian's National Zoo, a member of the panda team at the Smithsonian's National Zoo performs the first neonatal exam Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, on a giant panda cub born Friday, Aug. 23, in Washington.

Associated Press

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The giant panda cub at Washington's National Zoo appears to be in excellent health, zookeepers reported after a 10-minute physical exam Sunday morning. The panda, born Friday afternoon, weighs 4.8 ounces (136 grams), is pink with white fur and wriggled and squealed loudly when it was taken away from its mother, zoo officials said. A second cub was still-born Saturday night, but zookeepers were still overjoyed at the prospect of one healthy cub given that pandas are critically endangered and breeding them in captivity has proved difficult, especially in Washington. The cub's mother, Mei Xiang, gave birth to her only surviving cub, a male named Tai Shan, in 2005. Tai Shan enjoyed rock star status before he was re-

turned to China in 2010. China owns the pandas at the Smithsonian's National Zoo. The new cub had a full stomach, and veterinarians reported that it has been digesting its food, zoo spokeswoman Pamela Baker-Masson said Sunday. Its heartbeat is steady and its lungs appear to be functioning properly. Mei Xiang gave birth to a cub last year after several years of failed breeding, but the cub died after six days. Its lungs hadn't fully developed and likely weren't sending enough oxygen to its liver. Following that disappointment, zookeepers changed their protocols for newborn pandas in consultation with Chinese breeders. The plan was for veterinarians to get their hands on the panda within 48 hours of its birth, and after two failed attempts on Saturday, panda keeper Marty Dearie was able to

pry the cub away from Mei Xiang on Sunday morning.

"All the external features looked perfectly normal, so the cub has been described as vibrant, healthy and active," Baker-Masson said. "My colleagues were very, very happy. This is joyful news."

Mei Xiang was agitated when the cub was taken away from her, pacing and growling in her den, but the mother calmed down immediately after the cub was returned to her and she began cradling it, Baker-Masson said. Veterinarians will try to examine the cub again Tuesday. Its eyes have yet to open, and its gender will not be known for two to three weeks. A DNA sample was collected to determine the cub's paternity. □

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U.S. overhauls process for recognizing Indian tribes



In this Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013 photo, Alan Russell, chairman of the Schaghticoke tribe stands on the reservation land in Kent, Conn. Associated Press

MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

KENT, Connecticut (AP) — His tribe once controlled huge swaths of what is now New York and Con-

necticut, but the shrunken reservation presided over by Alan Russell today hosts little more than four mostly dilapidated homes and a pair of rattlesnake dens.

The Schaghticoke Indian Tribe leader believes its fortunes may soon be improving. As the U.S. Interior Department overhauls its rules for recognizing American Indian tribes, a nod from the federal government appears within reach, potentially bolstering its claims to surrounding land and opening the door to a tribal-owned casino.

"It's the future generations we're fighting for," Russell said.

The rules floated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, intended to streamline the approval process, are seen by some as lowering the bar through changes such as one requiring that tribes demonstrate political continuity since 1934 and not "first contact" with

European settlers. Across the country, the push is setting up battles with host communities and already recognized tribes who fear upheaval.

In Kent, a small Berkshires Mountains town with one of New England's oldest covered bridges, residents have been calling the selectman's office with their concerns.

The tribe claims land including property held by the Kent School, a boarding school, and many residents put up their own money a decade ago to fight a recognition bid by another faction of the Schaghticoke.

Members of the state's congressional delegation also have been in touch with the first selectman, Bruce Adams, who said he fears court battles over land claims and the possibility the tribe would open its own businesses as a sovereign nation within town boundaries.

"Everybody is on board that we have to do what we can to prevent this from happening," he said.

The new rules were proposed in June by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which invited public comment at hearings over the summer in Oregon, California, Michigan, Maine and Louisiana. President Barack Obama's administration intends to improve a recognition process that has been criticized as slow, inconsistent and overly susceptible to political influence.

Federal recognition, which has been granted to 566 American tribes, is coveted because it brings increased health and education benefits to tribal members in addition to land protections and op-

portunities for commercial development.

Tribes have been pushing for years for Congress or the Interior Department to revise the process.

"I am glad that the Department is proposing to keep its promise to fix a system that has been broken for years, leaving behind generations of abuse, waste, and broken dreams," wrote Cedric Cromwell, chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts, which was recognized in 2007.

The new rules will create tensions for host communities and some recognized tribes, according to Richard Monette, a law professor and expert on American Indian tribes at the University of Wisconsin. Tribes along the Columbia River in western Washington state, for instance, will be wary of a new tribe at the river's mouth gaining recognition and cutting into their take of salmon. Tribes elsewhere fear encroachment on casino gaming markets.

The salmon-harvesting Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in Washington state argues the new rules seem to lower the threshold for recognition. Tribal chair Virginia Cross wrote to the Interior Department that the changes, if approved, would lead to acknowledgment of groups of descendants who "have neither a history of self-government, nor a clear sense of identity."

In Connecticut, recognition has meant an entry into lucrative gaming markets. Russell, 67, said his 100-member tribe wants its own casino but not on its 400-acre (162-hectare) reservation ringed by the Appalachian Trail. □

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Syria

Continued from front

In a sign the U.S. may be a step closer to an armed response, naval forces have already been dispatched toward Syria's coastal waters, although President Barack Obama has cautioned against a hasty decision.

With France, Britain, Israel and some U.S. congressmen urging swift military action against Assad's regime if the use of chemical agents is confirmed, the U.N. team's conclusions could have a dramatic impact on the trajectory of the country's civil war.

The agreement struck in Damascus calls for U.N. experts already in the country to begin an investigation Monday into the suspected chemical attack on rebel-held areas in the capital's eastern suburbs. Anti-government activists and Doctors Without Borders say that more than 300 people were killed in an artillery barrage by regime forces Wednesday that included the use of toxic gas. The government calls the allegations "absolutely baseless."

The suburbs hit in the suspected chemical strike,

collectively known as eastern Ghouta, are under the control of rebel fighters, and regime artillery and warplanes have pounded the area for days. The U.N. inspectors will have to traverse through both government-held and opposition-controlled turf to conduct their probe. Rebels have said they will help facilitate the visit.

Under Sunday's agreement with the U.N., the Syrian government "affirmed that it will provide the necessary cooperation, including the observance of the cessation of hostilities at the locations related to the incident," U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said in a statement.

In Washington, a senior administration official said the U.S. has "very little doubt" that regime forces used chemical weapons in Wednesday's attack, an assessment that was "based on the reported number of victims, reported symptoms of those who were killed or injured" as well as witness accounts and facts gathered by the U.S. intelligence community.

The official, who insisted on anonymity because of lack of authorization to speak publicly about the

developments, was dismissive of the Syrian government's agreement to grant access to the U.N. team, saying it was "too late to be credible."

The regime's continuing shelling of the site would have "significantly corrupted" any available evidence of chemical weapons, the official said.

The U.N. team was in Syria to look into three earlier suspected chemical attacks, with a mandate to determine whether such weapons were used, not who was responsible for unleashing them. There was no indication that the mission's brief had been expanded to assess who was behind Wednesday's attack.

Even as the pressure mounts for a strong international response, there is no guarantee that foreign powers will take action if the U.N. confirms chemical agents were used. But the scale of the attack makes this instance far harder to ignore than previous suspected cases.

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel offered no hints Sunday about likely U.S. responses, telling reporters traveling with him in Malaysia that the Obama administration was still as-



This Aug. 21, 2013, file image provided by by Shaam News Network, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, purports to show several bodies being buried during a funeral in a suburb of Damascus, Syria.

Associated Press

sessing intelligence about Wednesday's attack.

"When we have more information, that answer will become clear," he said when a reporter asked whether it was a matter of when, not if, the U.S. will take military action against Syria. "There are risks and consequences for any option that would be used or not used — for action or inaction," he told reporters. "You have to come to the central point of what would be the objective if

you are to pursue an action or not pursue an action. So all those assessments are being made."

The U.S. has about a dozen F-16 jets, a Patriot missile battery and as many as 1,000 American troops in Jordan, which all could also be used in any military action. U.S. administration and defense officials in recent days have said the most likely military move would be the launch of Tomahawk missiles off ships in the Mediterranean. □

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Candidate for chancellor of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and challenger of German chancellor Angela Merkel, Peer Steinbrueck speaks during the summer interview of broadcaster ARD in Berlin, Germany Sunday Aug. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

Merkel rival: suspend trade talks over National Security Agency scandal

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's election challenger says he would suspend negotiations with the U.S. over a trans-Atlantic free trade agreement until Washington clarifies details about National Security Agency surveillance programs.

Social Democratic leader Peer Steinbrueck, who is running for chancellor Sept. 22, said Sunday on ARD public TV that "I would interrupt the negotiations until the Americans say if German government offices and European institutions are bugged or wiretapped."

He criticized Merkel's government for talking to Washington about a deal that would eliminate regulatory trade barriers between the EU and U.S., while at the same time "we don't know if the Americans may be sitting under our desks with some technical devices."

Germany's independent privacy watchdogs say the surveillance programs breach an EU-U.S. pact meant to ensure cross-border data protection. □

Jerusalem pushes forth with settlement plans



In this May 4, 2010 file photo, Palestinian men work at a construction site in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo.

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel pushed forward Sunday with plans to construct 1,500 apartments in east Jerusalem in a move that could undermine recently renewed Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

City spokeswoman Brachie Sprung said city officials had approved plans to lay down infrastructure for the project. She called the move a "standard and bureaucratic process" and said final government approval was still required. Actual construction is still years away, she said.

Still, the move comes just after Israelis and Palestinians resumed talks after a five-year stalemate. Israeli settlement construction in

the West Bank and east Jerusalem is one of the thornier issues separating the two sides.

The city is pushing development in the neighborhood of Ramat Shlomo, a project that has also raised tensions with the U.S. Israel first announced the plans in 2010 during U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Israel, sparking a diplomatic rift with Washington that took months to mend.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem following its 1967 war with its Arab neighbors and claims the area as an inseparable part of its capital. The Palestinians also claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their hoped-for state. About 200,000

Jews and roughly 250,000 Palestinians live in east Jerusalem, which is home to sensitive Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites.

While Israelis consider east Jerusalem enclaves neighborhoods like others in the city, the international community doesn't recognize Israel's annexation of the area and rejects the areas as illegal or illegitimate settlements.

Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi accused Israel of playing a "dangerous game" by moving ahead with the plans.

"It seems they're pushing ahead with infrastructure as though this is not a basic part of settlement activity!" she wrote in an email. □

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Gay activists in Amsterdam protest Russian policy

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — More than 2,000 gay rights supporters protested in Amsterdam's largest square Sunday, carrying signs, singing songs and chanting slogans to condemn the Russian government's homosexuality policies.

Demonstrators especially criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin, with performers leading the crowd in cheering "Putin Out!" An enormous blow-up doll caricaturing the president flanked one side of the stage — flexing his muscles, bare-chested, and draped in a rainbow flag.

Protesters said Sunday their main concern is the law adopted by Russia's parliament in June making "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors" illegal.

Amsterdam Mayor Eberhard van der Laan told the crowd he hoped the protest would send the message to Moscow that "love is not propaganda."

Afterward in an interview with The Associated Press, he said the city "is proud of its homosexual community and they have the right to support from government" — not persecution. Amsterdam has a long history of tolerance of gay rights, including performing the first gay marriages in 2001.

Van der Laan said he didn't know whether the message would reach Moscow, but the protest was "a matter of principle."

"You have to say something at any rate," he said. He called on the Dutch government to submit a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights.

Dutchman Wijnand Looijen, who traveled from the far south of the country to attend, said he believed

such demonstrations make a difference.

"There's discussion about this everywhere," he said. "The pressure is increasing, and that's a good thing." Sunday's protest, titled "To Russia With Love," was organized in response to a concert featuring a Russian state orchestra and choir that was held on the far side of the square later in the evening. The two countries have named 2013 as a special year to celebrate historical ties.

But Van der Laan declined to meet with Putin when he visited the Netherlands in March, sending lesbian councilwoman Carolien Gehrels in his place and flying a rainbow flag over city hall.

Organizer Frank van Dalen of Pride United said he was thrilled with the turnout for Sunday's demonstration, which was put together in a matter of days — word spread quickly on social media.

"It shows that people are incredibly angry" about Russian treatment of gays, he said. "Not only gays and lesbians, but heterosexuals have come out to support them, and transgender and bisexual — this is something that concerns everyone."

After the protest ended, the gay activists marched in a group to the opposite end of the square to attend the Russian concert, which featured Russians in folk costumes doing traditional dances.

The gay activists didn't disturb the performances, though they continued to wave rainbow flags from the audience.

Russian tourist Alina Alieva, who came for the Russian folk concert, said she didn't approve of the gay demonstration.



Amsterdam Mayor Eberhard van der Laan speaks at Museum Square in Amsterdam, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

"They shouldn't do this, because it can worsen the situation," she said. "We come from different cultures, we have different histories and different customs." □

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In this photo taken in July, 2011 and released Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013 by Tokyo Electric Power Co., a measure shows a seven-millimeter gap between two concrete foundations of storage tanks at the H1 area at the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.
Associated Press

MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The operator of Japan's crippled nuclear plant said Saturday that deteriorated seams and a possible contortion of a reassembled storage tank might have caused a massive contaminated water leak that has triggered fears over the plant's radioactive water management. Tokyo Electric Power Co. said that after the foundation of the tank, which was storing radioactive water, partially collapsed two years ago, it was moved

and reassembled. A 300-ton water leak from the tank was discovered Monday. The massive leak was the fifth and worst from a Fukushima Dai-ichi tank since the plant suffered triple meltdowns after the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011. All five of the plant's tanks are collapsible and are seamed with rubber seals. TEPCO spokesman Noriyuki Imaizumi said the tank passed a water-tightness test and other safety requirements after being reassembled. The leak might

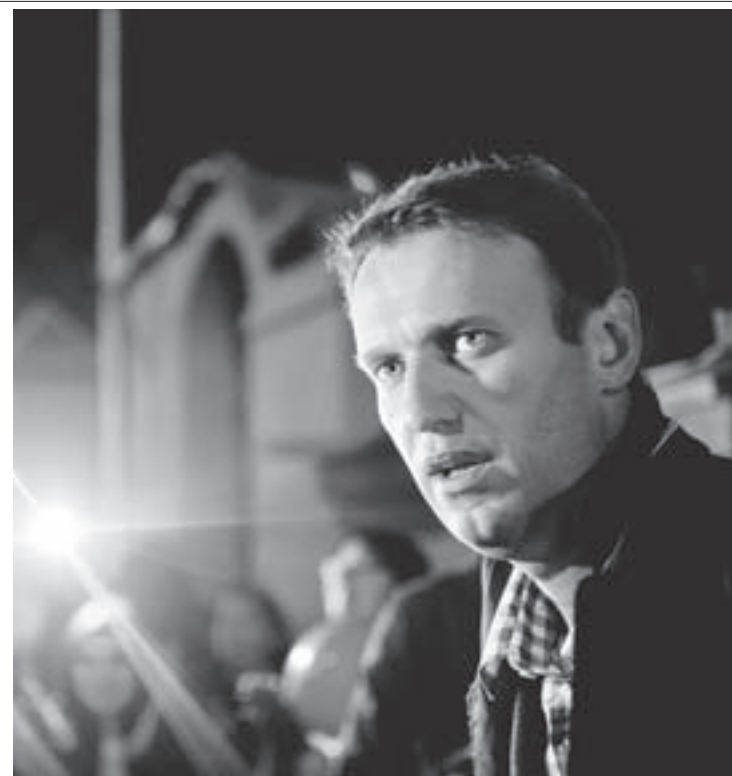
Seam possible cause of Japan nuke plant tank leak

have started when rubber seals degenerated, failing to cushion the tank's possible contortion, he said, adding that the company was further investigating the cause. Nuclear regulatory officials have raised concerns over a design flaw of the rubber seam tanks and urged a switch to more durable welded-seam tanks.

TEPCO said that it believes the leaked water seeped mostly underground, but that some might have escaped into the Pacific. About one-third of the plant's 1,000 tanks storing contaminated water use the same design. The water had been used to cool the wrecked reactors. The latest leak was another

example of how TEPCO has repeatedly failed to acknowledge problems it could have foreseen and acted on to mitigate before they got out of control. The tank problem also compounds TEPCO's ongoing battle with other radioactive water leaks from elsewhere in the plant that have already escaped into the ocean. □

Russian opposition leader Navalny briefly detained



Alexei Navalny speaks to the media after he was released at a police station in Moscow, late Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian opposition leader running for Moscow mayor has been briefly detained by police during a campaign rally. Alexei Navalny, who is also an anti-corruption blogger, was detained late Sunday at an event for infringing "the rights and legal interests of other citizens," an unnamed police official told Interfax news agency. Navalny was detained immediately after leaving the stage of a campaign

event, and released a short time later. About 10 technicians who were working to dismantle the stage were also arrested, according to members of the Navalny campaign. The detention, which appeared unprovoked, is part of a series of public signals to Navalny, who was given a verbal warning about various alleged campaign violations by the Moscow electoral committee last week. □

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Mexico migrant train derails; at least 5 dead

ANTONIO ALEJANDRO VIL-LEGAS

Associated Press
VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico

(AP) — A notorious cargo train known as “the Beast” and carrying at least 250 Central American hitchhiking migrants derailed in a remote region of southern Mexico on Sunday, killing at least five people and injuring 17, authorities said.

The train company and rescue workers were bringing in two cranes to help search for more victims among the eight derailed cars, officials said. Thousands of migrants ride the roofs of the train cars on their way north each year, braving brutal conditions for a chance at crossing into the United States.

The Tabasco state government said at least 250 Honduran migrants were on the train heading north from the Guatemala border. Heavy rains had loosened the earth beneath the tracks and shifted the rails, officials said.

Honduran President Porfirio Lobo set up a call center for families to learn information about their loved ones.

The head of civil protection for Mexico's Interior Department, Luis Felipe Puente, released a list of 17 Hondurans ranging in ages from 19 to 54 who were taken to two regional hospitals. Six of them were in serious condition, according to

the list he published on his official Twitter account.

The locomotive and first car did not derail and were used to move victims to the nearest hospital, in the neighboring state of Veracruz. Tabasco state Civil Protection chief Cesar Burelo Burelo said the accident happened at 3 a.m. in a marshy area surrounded by lakes and forest that is out of cellphone range. The Red Cross said dozens of soldiers, marines and civilian emergency workers rushed to the area, which ambulances couldn't reach. Officials were trying to establish air or water links to the scene.

Honduran diplomats also traveled to the area to help identify victims and make sure the injured were getting needed medical attention, that nation's foreign ministry said.

Mario Bustillos Borge, the Red Cross chief in Tabasco, described the rescue as a complex situation that was making it difficult to get rapid confirmation of the exact number of dead and injured.

“There are some very high estimates, and others that are more conservative,” he told a local radio station, without providing details.

While the number of Mexicans heading to the U.S. has dropped dramatically, there has been a surge of Central Americans making the 1,000-mile northbound

journey, fueled in large part by the rising violence brought to their homelands by the spread of Mexican drug cartels.

Other factors, experts say, are an easing in migration enforcement by Mexican authorities and a false perception that Mexican criminal gangs are not preying on migrants as much as they had been.

Central American migration remains small compared to the numbers of Mexicans still headed north, but steeply rising numbers speak starkly to the violence and poverty at home. The number of Hondurans deported by the U.S. government increased between to 32,000 last year from 24,000



In this photo release by the Civil Protection of the State of Tabasco, police agents work at a site where a train derailed in Tabasco, Mexico, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

in 2011. Authorities say it's hard to estimate the numbers crossing north.

U.S. border agents caught 99,013 non-Mexican migrants, mostly from Central America, in the fiscal year

that ended Oct. 31, nearly double the same period a year earlier and the highest since 2006. The number of migrants actually making the trip is believed to be far higher. □



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Maduro vs. corruption: In earnest or power grab?

FABIOLA SANCHEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— There is little question Venezuela is a nation in desperate need of an anti-corruption crusade.

Machine-gun toting police in the chaotic capital are widely perceived to be in cahoots with criminals, black marketeers get rich circumventing widely-flouted currency controls, and many politicians who rose to power under the late President Hugo Chavez flaunt lifestyles that appear far too luxurious for their government salaries.

But a months-long campaign by President Nicolas Maduro that began with the arrests of dozens of



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks at the inauguration of a new branch of the National Experimental Security University (UNES) in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013.

Associated Press

officials and cronies suspected of pilfering millions from state coffers has devolved into what critics say is a witch hunt against the

already-beleaguered political opposition, and what many see as a power grab by an increasingly embattled government.

"The executive has enough powers," said Mercedes de Freitas, the head of the civil society group Transparency Venezuela. "We have to dilute its power in order to fight corruption, not give it more power."

In the past two weeks, government corruption probes have increasingly targeted the inner circle of Miranda state Gov. Henrique Capriles, the man who lost a narrow, disputed election in April to Maduro, Chavez's hand-picked successor.

Maduro last week said he intended to declare "a constitutional emergency" to wage war on graft and ask the National Assembly to grant him special powers to rule by decree, a maneuver Chavez had employed to steamroll radical reforms. It was unclear when that could happen.

In one of the government's most striking cases targeting members of the opposition, the president personally denounced unspecified corruption that

somehow involved a gay and transvestite prostitution ring that has been linked to Oscar Lopez, Capriles's chief of staff. A Maduro ally released a photo of Lopez in women's clothing with other men. Lopez has been in hiding since military intelligence raided his apartment on Aug. 7 following a government order for his arrest.

Pro-Maduro legislators also stripped the immunity of opposition deputy Richard Mardo, another Capriles loyalist, saying he can now be prosecuted for alleged tax evasion and hiding some income sources. The opposition calls the allegations fabricated and politically motivated.

Maduro hasn't said why he launched the anti-corruption campaign, but has warned that traditional political parties behind Capriles are using graft "to eat away at the country in order to regain power." Capriles calls the crack-down a "smoke screen" to distract from economic woes, crumbling infrastructure, rampant crime and political repression ahead of Dec. 8 regional elections.

An Information Ministry spokesman did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, but Maduro has denied allegations of a witch hunt against Capriles allies, and Attorney General Luisa Ortega Diaz has said there are many pro-government figures among the 64 people detained in recent weeks.

Those arrested include Luis Gallardo, the former pro-government governor of Guarico state; Carlos Sanchez, the administrator of the tax office in the coast-

al state of Vargas; Tryno Martinez, national inspections director for the country's consumer protection agency and Radwan Sabagh, former president of the state-run iron-ore mining company Ferrominera del Orinoco.

In July, four public employees were among eight people arrested for allegedly embezzling more than \$84 million from a joint fund shared by Venezuela and China.

But no major government figure has faced charges, and the attention of prosecutors seems to have shifted to the Capriles camp. Human rights groups warn the pursuit of charges against opposition voices could further stifle free speech, particularly given what they call increased efforts to diminish the influence of independent news organizations.

For his part, Capriles has noted that it is unusual to focus an anti-corruption drive on those out of power.

"This is probably the only government on the planet that attacks the opposition for being corrupt ... when corruption is with those who exercise power," Capriles said recently. He added that if Maduro turned investigators loose on the "big fish" around him "we would be left without a government."

Corruption is nothing new in Venezuela, which last year ranked 165th of 174 countries in a Transparency International survey of perceptions of corruption, among the worst along with Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Voters fed up with official corruption first elected Chavez in 1998. □

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Opening New Doors For Businesses In San Nicolas



ORANJESTAD - Similar to the recent business talks in San Nicolas, the same enthusiasm was found in Oranjestad with the incentives offered to existing and new commercial interest potentials in San Nicolas. With a special financial package now being of-

ferred, the government of Aruba is convinced that there are great possibilities with new stimuli for establishing more businesses in San Nicolas. With the recent changes in Parliament in relation

to the creation of a "special zone" for businesses in San Nicolas, a special event was organized in the Renaissance Convention Center last week where members of Parliament gave an in-depth explanation of the benefits that come with the changes in the financial sector for those interested in investing and doing business in San Nicolas. The San Nicolas Business Association (SNBA), Aruba

Financial Center and advisers of the Minister of Finance gave ample explanation of the new opportunities for business ventures in San Nicolas. Analyzing the interest in San Nicolas and adding the increased interest in Oranjestad, one can conclude there are great possibilities in commencing to establish more businesses in San Nicolas. During the event on Wednesday evening, many questions and answers were abound from business owners and investors regarding the stimulus package currently being offered, resulting in many embracing it with two hands.

Minister Ing. Mike de Meza discussed the investments from the government into the infrastructure of San Nicolas and what is still yet to come in the future. After the government representatives finished, the private sector gave their presentation and how the special package will benefit the commercial sector and the future of San Nicolas. Prime Minister Mike Eman gave the green light and thumbs to new business and even closed businesses to reopen and rejuvenate San Nicolaas. For more information on the new incentives to open a business in San Nicolas please contact the San Nicolas. □



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of businesses listed on TripAdvisor only 10 % will receive this prestigious honor. Because it is the entire team at Jolly Pirates together who do their utmost to make their snorkel cruises an experience worth writing home about, a party was held in their honor. "We had a whole lot to celebrate", explains Captain Harald who manages the talent that make up his

award - winning crew. After a sunset Cocktail hour the festive, open - aired Banana Bus was the evening's mode of transport for the thirty party goers who were wined at the special occasion restaurant located in Saveneta. On the water's edge, the guests of honor were surprised with appreciation gifts of Veuve Cliquot Champagne and Old Parr Scotch Whiskey



with chocolates and party favors all cheerfully decorated at the new Party Boutique in Tanki Flip. With their toes in the sand, the group sat by the water and enjoyed a perfect evening with great food and lots of laughter. Special birthday wishes

ing and dancing with the whole team our Trip Advisor Award together with our recent Best Of Aruba Award, was a great way for everyone to celebrate." Jolly Pirates cruise twice daily to the best swimming and snorkeling spots on an impressive gaff-rigged,



and desserts were served up for Emely Leon, who manages for several years the Jolly Pirates Reservations and Souvenir Shop with a smile. Emely explains, "Receiving the Trip Advisor Award and our recent Best of Aruba Award will certainly translate into more positive reviews from our guests who continue to drive the demand when they recommend our Jolly Pirates experience to their family and friends. Captain Julio, who has been with the Jolly Pirates for nearly fifteen years explains, "a whole night din-

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Rafael Nadal, from Spain, hits a backhand against John Isner during the finals match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2013, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

Rafael Nadal brings winning streak into U.S. Open

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ask Rafael Nadal how his famously troublesome left knee is feeling on the eve of the U.S. Open, and he'll balk a bit while formulating a response. "I am ..." the 12-time major title winner began, haltingly, during an interview with The Associated Press. "You know ..." he resumed, before smiling sheepishly and pausing again. Eventually, Nadal offered something of a complicated answer. "I have to say that I am very well, because the results have been amazing since I came back," he said. "If I say something else, (it) will sound strange." That's because when the year's last Grand Slam tournament begins Monday, none of the players setting foot on the blue hard courts of Flushing Meadows possesses as much momentum — or is in as fine form — as the No. 2-seeded Nadal.

Continued on Page 22



Adam Scott hits a tee shot on the 17th hole during the third round of The Barclays golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013, in Jersey City, N.J.

Associated Press

Scott opens FedEx Cup with a win

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Masters champion Adam Scott won The Barclays on Sunday after everyone around him did their best to lose it.

Scott played bogey-free at Liberty National, making only two birdies on the back nine for a 5-under 66 that put him in the mix of a crowded leaderboard at the top. Turns out he was the only one who stayed there. "I can't believe it, to be honest," Scott said after winning the FedEx Cup playoffs opener. "I just played a good round today and I came in and really didn't think it had a chance. But obviously, things went my way a lot out there."

Justin Rose had a 25-foot birdie putt for the lead,

ran it 5 feet by the cup and three-putted for a bogey for a 68. Kevin Chappell had a two-shot lead through 10 holes, only to play the next seven holes in 7-over par to close with a 76.

Tiger Woods suffered a back spasm on the par-5 13th hole and hooked a fairway metal so far left that it landed in a swamp on the other side of the 15th fairway, leading to bogey. He dropped another shot on the 15th, and then gamely birdied the 16th and 17th holes to pull within one shot of Scott. Woods' putt from the back of the 18th green was one turn short of falling to force a playoff.

The last challenge came from Gary Woodland, who fell out of the lead when he hit driver on the 13th that ran into the water, leading

to bogey. Woodland had birdie chances from inside 10 feet on the final three holes, and missed them all. He closed with a 73.

"I found a way to hang in there and grind it out and gave myself a chance on the back nine on Sunday, which is everything you can ask for," Woodland said. Scott finished at 11-under 273 and moved to a career-best No. 2 in the world. It was the second time Woods has missed a playoff by one shot at Liberty National.

Woods, Woodland and Rose shared second place with Graham DeLaet of Canada, whose 65 matched the low score of the final round. DeLaet will move up to No. 9 in the Presidents Cup standings, and with one week before qualifying ends, is in good

shape to make the International team.

Woods had all four rounds in the 60s for the first time in a year on the PGA Tour, though it wasn't enough. He battled stiffness in his lower back all week, which he attributed to a soft bed in his hotel room — the second straight year he has had back issues from a mattress at this event.

In a brief interview with CBS Sports, he said it was "hypothetical" when asked if he would compete in the Deutsche Bank Championship, the next playoff event that starts Friday on the TPC Boston. The tournament gives its charity money to Woods' foundation. Woods already missed the AT&T National this year, which also benefits his foundation.

Continued on Page 21

Teen star Lydia Ko wins again in Canada

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Teen star Lydia Ko ran away with the Canadian Women's Open — again. The 16-year-old New Zealand amateur successfully defend her title Sunday, closing with a 6-under 64 at Royal Mayfair for a five-stroke victory and her fourth win in professional events.

"I'm pretty surprised, but I played some really good golf out there, so I was really happy about that," Ko said. "My goal today was to shoot 5 under and just play my own game. If somebody else shot better, then I can't do anything about it."

Last year at Vancouver Golf Club in British Columbia, the South Korean-born Ko became the youngest winner in LPGA Tour history at 15 years, 4 months, 2 days. She also was the fifth amateur winner in tour history and the first since

JoAnne Carner in the 1969 Burdine's Invitational.

"I never really thought about making history and all that," Ko said. "History is, I don't know where it starts. So, yeah, it's awesome to be a part of history."

Ko's other victories in professional events came last year in the Australian tour's New South Wales Open and this year in the Ladies European Tour's New Zealand Women's Open. Projected to jump from 19th to seventh in the world ranking, she has played 14 LPGA Tour events the last two seasons, making the cut in every tournament. She also won the U.S. Women's Amateur last summer.

Ko was again asked about turning professional.

"I've got some people above me like my mom and dad, they're the boss," Ko said. "They're going to help me to make the right

decision and to turn pro at what time. I think as I'm only 16 still, it's quite hard to make huge decisions. When I turn pro it's like a job. Money is all about it and everything like that, every shot counts. Yeah, I think my parents and New Zealand golf they're all going to have a say, and hopefully we'll make a really good decision on when I will turn pro."

She bristled when asked about losing out on another \$300,000 pay day.

"I don't care. I don't care," Ko said. "I can say that a couple times more, if you want."

Ko had a 15-under 265 total after opening with rounds of 65, 69 and 67.

A stroke behind Caroline Hedwall entering the final round, Ko birdied five of the first eight holes and reached 15 under with a birdie on the par-4 12th. She dropped a stroke on

the par-4 13th, parred the next four and closed with a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-4 18th.

"I didn't have it coming," Ko said about her final putt. "That's why I was like, 'Oh, my God'. I was pretty worried it would just go straight down because I knew it was a slippery putt. No, I just hit a little bit, and it trickled down in the hole." France's Karine Icher was second after a 67.

She marveled at Ko's performance.

"She's amazing," Icher said. "Sixteen-years-old and to win twice. She has no fear, I guess. It's incredible. As an amateur and so young, it's great for women's golf, but not so great for us." Hedwall, the Swede coming off a record 5-0 performance last week in Colorado in the Solheim Cup in Europe's blowout victory over the United States, had a 71 to tie



Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, poses with the trophy after winning the LPGA Canadian Women's Open golf tournament in Edmonton, Alberta, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013. Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, poses with the trophy after winning the LPGA Canadian Women's Open golf tournament in Edmonton, Alberta, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

for third at 9 under with Brittany Lincicome (69). □

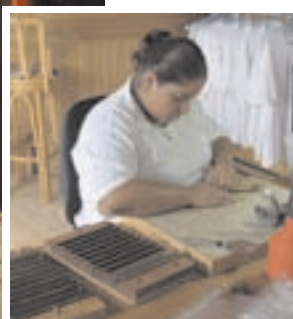
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Granderson hits key sac fly, Yankees beat Rays

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) —

Curtis Granderson hit a sacrifice fly in the 11th inning as the New York Yankees avoided a three-game sweep by defeating the Tampa Bay Rays 3-2 on Sunday.

Alfonso Soriano started the winning rally with a one-out double off Jamey Wright (2-2). He stole third and came home on Granderson's fly ball to center.

Mariano Rivera, making his last regular-season appearance at Tropicana Field, received a standing ovation before getting the final three outs for his 38th save. The closer is planning to retire after this season.

WHITE SOX 5, RANGERS 2 CHICAGO (AP) — Jordan Danks homered after replacing the injured Avisail Garcia, backing a solid start by his brother John and helping the surging White Sox beat the Rangers.

The White Sox took two of three from the AL West leaders, giving them eight

victories in their last nine games.

Josh Phegley went deep after hitting the winning single in the ninth inning the previous night. John Danks (4-10) outpitched Matt Garza (3-2), allowing two runs over six innings for his second straight win.

A rare bright spot in a miserable season for Chicago was tempered by Garcia crashing into the right-field fence and slowly walking off the field.

BLUE JAYS 2, ASTROS 1 HOUSTON (AP) — Mark Buehrle allowed one run over eight innings as the Blue Jays rallied for two runs in the ninth inning to snap a seven-game losing streak with a win over the Astros.

Buehrle (10-7) allowed seven hits and struck out seven in winning his fifth straight. He has allowed seven runs over 27 innings, spanning his last four starts. Casey Janssen pitched the ninth for his 23rd save.

Robbie Grossman had two hits to extend his hitting



New York Yankees' Alfonso Soriano, right, scores from third base on Curtis Granderson's sacrifice fly during the 11th inning of a baseball game as Tampa Bay Rays catcher Jose Lobaton watches in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013. The Yankees won 3-2.

Associated Press

streak to 12 games for the Astros, who have yet to sweep a series at home this season.

Moises Sierra drew a bases loaded walk to tie the game at 1-1 in the ninth.

Following Sierra's walk, Chia-Jen Lo (0-2) struck out Kevin Pillar before Kevin Chapman induced a run-scoring groundout by Ryan Goins to put Toronto in front 2-1.

INDIANS 3, TWINS 1

CLEVELAND (AP) — Drew Stubbs hit a tiebreaking, two-out homer in the eighth inning as the Indians overcame four errors to beat the Twins.

Stubbs homered to dead center on a 0-1 pitch from Jared Burton (2-7) to snap a 1-all tie and lift the Indians to a crucial win in their quest a spot in the American League playoffs. Joe Smith (5-1) pitched a scoreless eighth and Chris Perez worked the ninth for his 21st save.

The Indians entered the day trailing Oakland by 2½ games for the AL's second wild-card spot, but didn't look like a playoff contender for much of the day. In addition to the four errors, the Indians made several other mistakes, both in the field and on the bases but managed to survive before starting a crucial road trip to Atlanta and Detroit that begins Tuesday.

Nick Swisher added an RBI single in the eighth.

ORIOLES 10, ATHLETICS 3. □



Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Mike Minor, right, throws during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, in St. Louis. Minor bounced back from the shortest outing of his career with seven strong innings, helping the Braves to a 5-2 victory.

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mike Minor bounced back from the shortest outing of his career with seven strong innings, leading the Atlanta Braves to a 5-2 win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday. Atlanta, which has the best record in the National League, salvaged the finale of the four-game set. Andrelton Simmons hit his 12th homer for the Braves, who closed out a 2-4 road trip. Allen Craig had three of St.

Louis' eight hits for his 44th multihit game of the season. But the Cardinals had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Minor (13-5) gave up one run and six hits while pitching on seven days' rest after allowing four runs in 1 2-3 innings against Washington on Aug. 17. Craig Kimbrel came on with two out in the eighth and picked up his 41st save in 44 opportunities.

Minor bounces back to lift Braves over Cards

St. Louis right-hander Lance Lynn gave up four runs and nine hits over seven innings while dropping to 0-3 with a 5.40 ERA in his last four starts.

PHILLIES 9, DIAMONDBACKS 5

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Roy Halladay pitched six effective innings in his return from the disabled list and John Mayberry Jr. homered as Philadelphia downed Arizona.

Cody Asche and Roger Bernadina each had two RBIs for the Phillies, who have won six of their last eight games.

A.J. Pollock had three hits, including a three-run homer, for Arizona, which has lost four of five.

The game started just 11 hours and 25 minutes after the final out at 2:12 a.m. of

Saturday's 7-hour, 6-minute marathon that set a record for length of time of a game for both clubs. The Diamondbacks won that one, 12-7.

Halladay (3-4), coming back from midseason right shoulder surgery, allowed two runs and four hits. He was going to pitch his third minor league rehab start on Sunday but was pressed into action when Sunday's original starter, Tyler Cloyd, was one of 11 Philadelphia pitchers used on Saturday. Arizona left-hander Patrick Corbin (13-4) gave up a season-high nine runs in 5 1-3 innings.

GIANTS 4, PIRATES 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ryan Vogelsong threw eight sharp innings for his first victory in three months, leading the Giants to the

win.

Pablo Sandoval had two RBIs as the Giants won their second straight to split the series with the Pirates. Buster Posey and Joaquin Arias each drove in a run.

Vogelsong (3-4) allowed two hits, struck out five and walked one in his first win since May 20 against Washington. The right-hander used his longest outing of the season to lower his ERA to 2.55 in four starts since coming off the disabled list on Aug. 9.

A.J. Burnett (6-9) pitched 7 1-3 innings for Pittsburgh, giving up four runs and eight hits. He fell to 2-3 in 10 starts since returning from the DL.

Sandy Rosario finished the three-hitter for San Francisco's 11th shutout.

BREWERS 3, REDS 1. □



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Tiger Woods tees off on the 16th hole during the final round of The Barclays golf tournament on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, in Jersey City, N.J. Woods finished in a four-way tie for second place.

FedEx Cup

Continued from Page 18

"I just got off and I'm not feeling my best right now," he said.

Rose was feeling that great, either. He was in position to win the tournament with a birdie putt, and the U.S. Open champion did not want to leave it short. Instead, he knocked it by farther than he imagined, the ball stayed on the high side of the cup the whole way. "I got too aggressive," Rose said. "I thought it was a putt to win the tournament. It's tough to take."

Scott won for the second time this year, and at least put himself into the conversation for PGA Tour player of the year if he were to go on to win the FedEx Cup. He is No. 2 in the standings behind Woods, though the \$10 million prize does not come into view until the Tour Championship.

The first playoff event was packed with plenty of energy on a spectacular day

across from the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline. Five players had at least a share of the lead at some point in the final round. Woods put up a great fight despite his back injury. Scott played the final 24 holes without a bogey.

Sunday also had some of the emotions found at Q-school for players whose season came to an abrupt end. And it was just as wild at the bottom.

Only the top 100 players in the FedEx Cup advance to the second playoff event next week outside Boston. Geoff Ogilvy could have joined them except for missing a 2½-foot par putt on the final hole that ultimately knocked him out of the top 100.

Camilo Villegas, at No. 110, thought he needed a 6-foot par putt on the last hole to advance. He missed it and was visibly

angry. More than an hour later, Aaron Baddeley appeared to be a lock to advance to Boston despite being at No. 119. Baddeley, however, bogeyed his last three holes, missing a 5-foot par putt on the 18th. That knocked him out and put Villegas back in at No. 100.

Scott didn't miss anything. He made three straight birdies on the front nine, got into the mix with a 10-foot birdie on the 14th, and then chose to lay up with an iron on the 16th hole, which played about 290 yards. He holed a 15-foot birdie putt to tie for the lead, never realizing he would be there by himself when it was over. □

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Roche wins Vuelta 2nd stage, Nibali leads

PONTEVEDRA, Spain (AP)

— Nicolas Roche of Ireland won the second stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Sunday, while Vincenzo Nibali took the red overall leader's jersey as the Italian aims for his second grand tour of the year.

SaxoBank-Tinkoff rider Roche broke away with three others on the final climb and used a furious finish to claim the 178-kilometer (110-mile) ride, which started in Pontevedra and finished at the Alto Do Monte Da Groba summit.

"Today has been a magnificent day for me," Roche said. "This morning I said that I was highly motivated. I knew it would be a good day for me. I hope to continue having strong performances."

Roche completed the stage in 4 hours, 37 minutes, 9 seconds.

Daniel Moreno of Katusha was two seconds behind Roche, followed by AG2R La Mondiale rider Domenico Pozzovivo six seconds back in third.

The first of 13 mountain stages didn't produce major differences between the race favorites — 2009 winner Alejandro Valverde and Joaquim Rodriguez ended 12 seconds off the pace.

Nibali crossed the finish line 14 seconds behind Roche, but maintained his advantage over his rivals from the opening stage team time trial.

Giro d'Italia winner Nibali leads Valverde by 27 seconds and Rodriguez by 57. "Everything went perfect

today," said Nibali, who took the leader's jersey from Astana teammate Janez Brajkovic after both finished the first stage with the same time.

Nibali, however, was cautious about looking ahead to Sept. 15 when the grueling three-week race finishes in Madrid.

"This Vuelta is very hard," he said.

"It's very long, day after day, but we have begun in good conditions."

After a final flat stretch along the picturesque northwestern coast, the stage entered a category one climb that took its toll on several riders, including 2008 Olympic gold medalist Samuel Sanchez of Euskaltel-Euskadi.

"The first mountain stages are always tough, but the



Nicolas Roche of Ireland wins the second stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 178-kilometer (110-mile) ride starting in Pontevedra and finishing at the Alto Do Monte Da Groba summit in Spain, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

race little by little puts everyone in their place," Rodriguez said.

Monday's third stage stays

in the region of Galicia for a hilly 172-kilometer (107-mile) ride from Vigo to Vilagarcia de Arousa. □

Nadal

Continued from Page 18

He's won his past 10 matches heading into the first round against the 97th-ranked Ryan Harrison of the United States.

Another past U.S. Open champion on Monday afternoon's schedule is 2000-01 winner Venus Williams, a former No. 1 now ranked 60th who will be taking on recent Wimbledon semi-finalist and 12th-seeded Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium. At night, Williams' younger sister Serena, the defending champion, plays 2010 French Open winner Francesca Schiavone of Italy, while 17-time major champion Roger Federer faces 62nd-ranked Grega Zemlja of Slovenia.

The biggest curiosity when it comes to Nadal these days is how his knees will hold up. They've present-

ed recurring problems for him over the years, particularly the left one, which kept him out of action from late June 2012 until February 2013. He missed the London Olympics, last year's U.S. Open and this year's Australian Open.

"I feel more comfortable now than six months ago, that's for sure," Nadal said, then quickly added: "But I still have pain some days."

He was asked whether he thinks that might be the case for the rest of his career. "Hopefully not," the 27-year-old Nadal said. "Hopefully not."

Hard courts could exacerbate the matter because of the pounding legs take on the unforgiving surface. Nadal himself maintains that there should be more tournaments played on other kinds of courts.

Yet he's been successful everywhere, winning the Australian Open and U.S.



Spain's Rafael Nadal sits during a practice session the day before the 2013 US Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Open once each, along with Wimbledon twice, to go along with his record eight championships on the slower red clay of the French Open. Nadal is 15-0 on hard courts in 2013, with his current run of victories built en route to titles at Montreal and Cincinnati.

"He's on a great streak right now. He's playing fantastic tennis. He's play-

ing as well as anyone in the world right now," said the 21-year-old Harrison, who will be making his Arthur Ashe Stadium debut against the tournament's 2010 champion. "So I'm going to have to bring a really high level out." Nadal's rivals at the top of the game have taken note, too, of course.

Summed up defending

champion Andy Murray: "He's going to be very difficult to beat here."

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who won the 2011 U.S. Open, said: "Nadal is definitely back, and he's playing maybe the best tennis that he ever has played on hard courts. ... He seems like he changed a little bit the game. He stepped in a little bit more. He knows that now he has to be a bit more aggressive than he usually is because of, I guess, his knees and everything and because hard court is not clay. It's not his favorite surface; it's faster. I'm sure he worked on that." Nadal agreed with that assessment: He is making an effort to hit balls earlier than he used to. He is trying to be more aggressive. "I'm clearly very impressed, especially seeing him play really well on the quicker hard courts. ... □



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Review: Haswell laptops deliver on long battery

AP Technology Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Just in time for the back-to-school season, new laptops with extended battery life are hitting store shelves. What these laptops have in common are microprocessors that belong to a new family of Intel chips called Haswell. The chips consume less power than previous generations and promise a 50 percent boost in battery life for watching video. The improvements extend to word processing, Web surfing and other computing tasks as well. Put another way, you can unplug your laptop in the morning and go a full day without a charge, with some breaks for meals, exercise and errands. The 13-inch (33-centimeter) MacBook Air, for instance, promises up to 12 hours of battery life. Three Windows machines I tried promise seven to nine hours. For

students, that's a full day of cutting classes — and more. For business travelers, that's a cross-country flight including delays. The catch: Slim, lightweight laptops with Haswell chips cost more than \$1,000. Cheaper laptops will be heavier or come with older chips. I reviewed Apple's MacBook Air and Dell, Sony and Acer computers running Microsoft's Windows 8. Samsung and other PC makers are just coming out with Haswell laptops, so you should expect even more choices by the holidays. The four I tested use solid-state flash drives, which keep laptops light but don't have as much capacity as traditional storage. They also lack Ethernet ports for wired Internet connections and slots for DVDs. Expect to use Wi-Fi a lot, though USB ports are available to connect devices. □



A MacBook Air from Apple, bottom center, a Vaio Pro 13 from Sony, top left, an Aspire S7 from Acer, center, and an XPS 12 from Dell, right, are displayed for a photograph, Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013, in New York. Each notebooks has a microprocessors that belongs to a new family of Intel chips called Haswell.

Associated Press

Instagram, other sites go down

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon's unit that runs Web servers for other companies had problems Sunday that coincided with outages or slowdowns on several popular websites. AirBnB says its site was one of those affected. Other services that were slow or unavailable included Instagram and Twitter's Vine video-sharing application. Online home rental service AirBnB tweeted at 4:32 p.m. EDT (2030 GMT) that it was one of several websites and apps that were temporarily down because Amazon server problems. Instagram sent a tweet saying it was aware some users

were having trouble loading Instagram and that was working on the problem. Vine later sent a similar tweet. Amazon Web Services provides companies with on-line storage and computing power. Its website showed several problems resolved on Sunday evening, with minor issues remaining. Amazon did not immediately respond to a request for comment. At 7 p.m. EDT (2300 GMT) videos posted to Vine appeared to be working. Instagram and AirBnB were functioning but slow. □



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N.Y. sues Trump, 'Trump University,' claims fraud

MICHAEL GORMLEY
Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) —

New York's attorney general sued Donald Trump for \$40 million Saturday, saying the real estate mogul helped run a phony "Trump University" that promised to make students rich but instead steered them into expensive and mostly useless seminars, and even failed to deliver promised apprenticeships.

Trump shot back that the Democrat's lawsuit is false and politically motivated. Attorney General Eric Schneiderman says many of the 5,000 students who paid up to \$35,000 thought they would at least meet Trump but instead all they got was their picture taken in front of a life-size picture of "The Apprentice" TV star.

"Trump University engaged in deception at every stage of consumers' advancement through costly programs and caused real financial harm," Schneiderman said. "Trump University, with Donald Trump's knowledge and

participation, relied on Trump's name recognition and celebrity status to take advantage of consumers who believed in the Trump brand."

But Trump's attorney accused Schneiderman of trying to extort campaign contributions from the real estate mogul through his investigation of Trump. Attorney Michael D. Cohen told The Associated Press on Saturday that Schneiderman's lawsuit was filled with falsehoods. Cohen said Trump and his university never defrauded anyone.

He said Trump University provided nearly 11,000 testimonials to Schneiderman from students praising the program and said 98 percent of students in a survey termed the program "excellent."

"The attorney general has been angry because he felt that Mr. Trump and his various companies should have done much more for him in terms of fundraising," Cohen said. "This entire investigation is politically motivated and it is a



In this May 23, 2005 file photo, real estate mogul and Reality TV star Donald Trump, left, listens as Michael Sexton introduces him at a news conference in New York where he announced the establishment of Trump University.

Associated Press

tremendous waste of taxpayers' money."

State Board of Elections records show Trump has spent more than \$136,000 on New York campaigns since 2010.

He contributed \$12,500 to Schneiderman in October 2010, when Schneiderman was running for attorney general, records show. An outspoken conservative, Trump himself flirted with a presidential run last year.

"Donald Trump will not sit back and be extorted by anyone, including the attorney general," Cohen

said.

The lawsuit says many of the wannabe moguls were unable to land even one real estate deal and were left far worse off than before the lessons, facing thousands of dollars in debt for the seminar program once billed as a top quality university with Trump's "hand-picked" instructors. Schneiderman is suing the program,

Trump as the university chairman, and the former president of the university in a case to be handled in state Supreme Court in

Manhattan. He accuses them of engaging in persistent fraud, illegal and deceptive conduct and violating federal consumer protection law.

The \$40 million he seeks is mostly to pay restitution to consumers.

He dismissed Trump's claim of a political motive.

"The fact that he's still brave enough to follow the investigation wherever it may lead speaks to Mr. Schneiderman's character," Schneiderman spokesman Andrew Friedman told AP. □



This March 1, 2005 file photo shows one of many buildings at Amgen's wooded, sprawling headquarters complex in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Biotech drugmaker Amgen will buy cancer drug maker Onyx Pharmaceuticals for about \$10.4 billion in cash in a deal that will add several cancer drugs to Amgen's stable and add to its pipeline of new drugs.

Amgen Inc. said Sunday it

will acquire Onyx for \$125 per share, and it expects to complete the deal at the beginning of the fourth quarter. The companies value the deal at \$9.7 billion excluding Onyx's cash, and Amgen said it will use \$8.1 billion in committed bank loans to finance the deal.

Amgen buying cancer drug maker Onyx for \$10.4 billion

Onyx rejected an offer from Amgen worth \$120 per share in June.

Amgen is the biggest biotech drug company in the world. Its products include Prolia for osteoporosis, Enbrel for rheumatoid arthritis and skin disorders, and Neulasta and Neupogen for fighting infection in cancer patients. The Thousand Oaks, Calif., company reported \$17.27 billion in revenue in 2012. It said Onyx will start adding to its adjusted net income in 2015.

Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. makes two cancer drugs through a partnership with Bayer AG. Sales of

Nexavar, a pill that is approved to treat liver and kidney cancer, totaled \$861 million in 2012. Onyx received \$288 million in revenue from those sales. Stivarga was approved in September as a treatment for colorectal cancer, and won additional approval in February for use against tumors of the intestinal tract that did not respond to other treatments.

In July the FDA approved Onyx's Kypolis as a treatment for multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer.

Multiple myeloma causes tumors to grow in the bone marrow, preventing the

production of normal blood cells. The FDA approved Kypolis for patients who have already been treated with at least two other multiple myeloma drugs, and Onyx is conducting other trials to win broader marketing approval. Onyx and Bayer are also testing Nexavar as a treatment for breast cancer.

The new offer comes at a 44 percent premium to Onyx's closing price on June 28, before reports of Amgen's initial bid. In the days after Amgen's first offer was made public, shares of the South San Francisco company climbed as high as \$136.87. □

Why it's time to revisit European stocks Wall Street Week Ahead

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's time for U.S. investors to revisit Europe.

Last summer, much of the continent was mired in recession and the euro currency looked like a failed experiment.

Now, Europe is healing. The 17 countries that use the euro posted economic growth of 0.3 percent from April to June compared with the previous quarter, the first expansion since late 2011. Industrial production is up, consumer spending is stable and stock markets are rising as people and businesses gain confidence.

Fund managers and market strategists say the last several months of better economic news and higher stock prices could signal the start a long-term rally for the continent.

"There are now clear signs that Europe is turning," says Jurrien Timmer, a portfolio manager at Fidelity Investments. Timmer recommends that investors move part of their U.S. investments into Europe.

In France, the CAC 40 stock index has risen 12 percent this year. Germany's DAX index is up 11 percent. Even more troubled



In this Thursday March 14, 2013 file photo, a trader uses a phone at the Frankfurt, Germany, stock exchange as the DAX climbed above 8,000 points.

economies like Spain and Italy aren't discouraging investors: Italy's FTSE MIB has climbed 7 percent and Spain's IBEX is up 6 percent. European stocks appear to be less expensive than their U.S. counterparts, based on their price-earnings ratio, or P/E. Low P/Es signal that stocks are cheap relative to their earnings; high ones signal they are expensive. The Stoxx Euro 600, Europe's equivalent of the Standard & Poor's 500 index, is trad-

ing at 13.1 times earnings over the next 12 months. That is slightly cheaper than the 14.1 times for the S&P 500.

Europe's nascent recovery can be traced back to a year ago.

On July 26, 2012, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi pledged to do "whatever it takes" to save the currency union. Later, the ECB calmed fears of state bankruptcies in countries like Spain and Italy by

promising to buy back government debt, if needed.

The improving fortunes of the eurozone can be seen in the borrowing costs of governments.

The yield on Spain's 10-year bond, for example, is now 4.44 percent, down from 6.83 percent at the end of last August.

"Even this slight stabilization will help lead to renewed confidence in the eurozone," says Sean Lynch, global investment strate-

gist for Wells Fargo Private Bank.

Europe's recovery is still patchy, but enough encouraging trends have emerged.

France exited its 18-month recession last quarter. Germany's economy, Europe's biggest, grew at a 0.7 percent annual rate, more than economists expected. Investor confidence there also hit a six-month high in August, according to the Centre for European Economic Research.

And while Spain's unemployment rate is 26.3 percent and its economy contracted by 0.1 percent in the second quarter, unemployment is at a five-month low. Economists expect Spain to pull out of its recession by year-end.

"The news out of Europe is encouraging,"

Lynch says. "It's too early to ring the 'all-clear' button, though."

In a conference call with investors on Aug. 14, Cisco CEO John Chambers said that business across Europe, particularly Britain and Northern Europe, was showing "very positive progress."

"We remain cautious, however, given the instability of the southern region," Chambers said. □

First woman member of the NYSE Siebert dies at 80

DAVID PITT

MARLEY SEAMAN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Muriel "Mickie" Siebert, the first woman to become a member of the New York Stock Exchange, has died of complications of cancer at age 80.

Siebert died Saturday of complications from cancer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Her death was confirmed by Jane Macon, a director of Siebert Financial and a partner at the law firm Norton Rose Fulbright. Siebert was founder and president of brokerage firm that bears her name, Muriel Siebert & Co. Inc. The com-

pany went public in 1996 as Siebert Financial Corp.

Macon said Siebert was "a fabulous woman, a trailblazer and a pioneer" who set a high standard for those who entered the financial world after her.

Siebert, who was born in Cleveland and moved to New York in 1954 at age 22, started her career as a trainee in research at Bache & Co. earning a \$65 a week. She went on to become an industry specialist in airlines and aerospace and later became a partner at brokerages including Brimberg & Co.

She bought a seat on the New York Stock Exchange in December 1967 after

months of struggling with the male-dominated business world that initially resisted her efforts to join. She established her investment firm the same year and transformed it into a discount brokerage house in 1975. Siebert took a leave of absence from the company in 1977 and placed it in a blind trust to be run by the employees when she was appointed the first woman superintendent of banking for the State of New York by Gov. Hugh Carey. She served five years.

As interest rates climbed steeply and bank failures became common, Siebert launched protective measures to prevent banks from

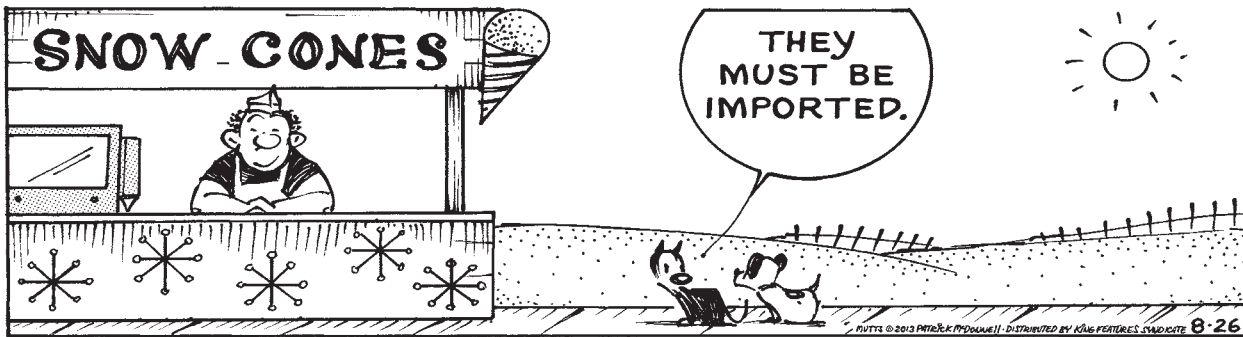


This May 9, 1995 file photo shows Muriel Siebert standing on the trading floor of her discount brokerage and underwriting firm in New York. Associated Press

failing in New York. She reorganized troubled banks, forced bank mergers, and convinced the federal government to advance millions of dollars to make the new mergers viable. She persuaded stronger institutions to help weaker ones.

In 1982, Siebert resigned from the job to run for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate seat of Daniel Patrick Moynihan. She came in second to a state lawmaker, Florence Sullivan, who went on to lose to Moynihan in the November election. □

Mutts



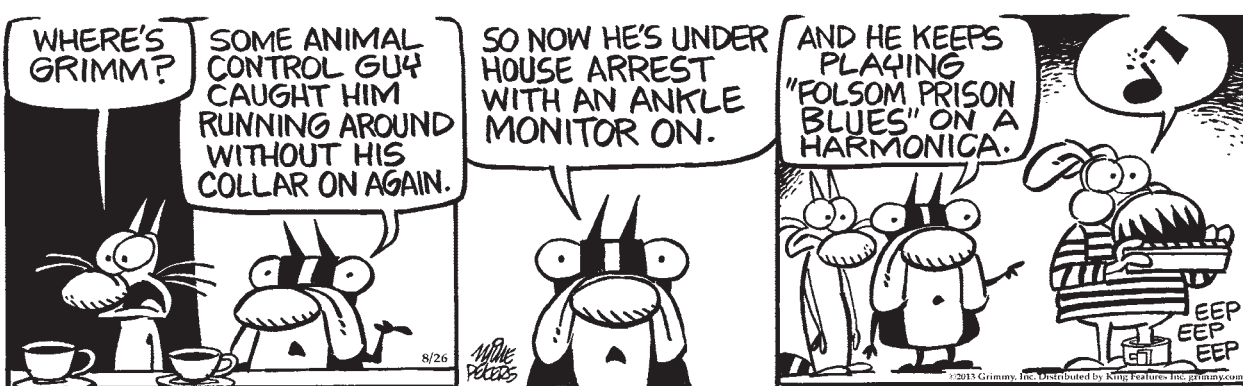
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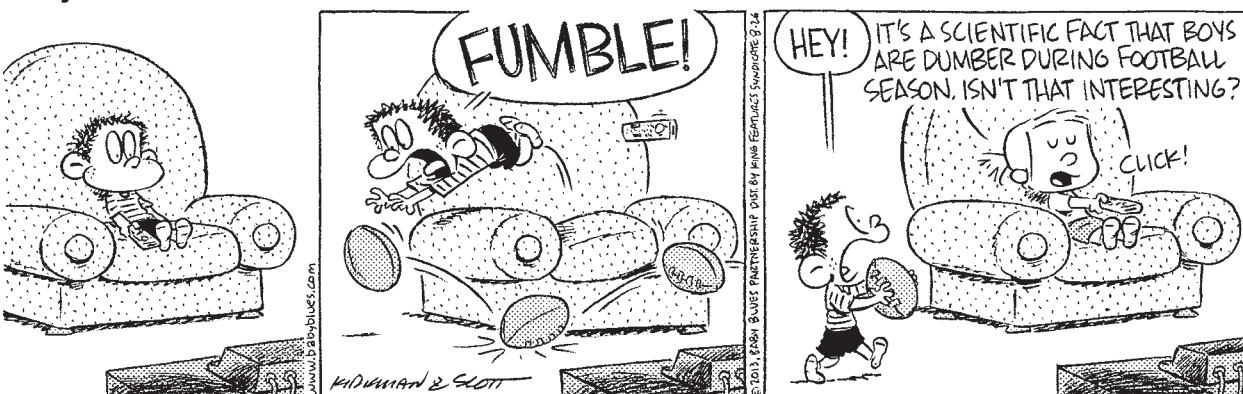
Blondie



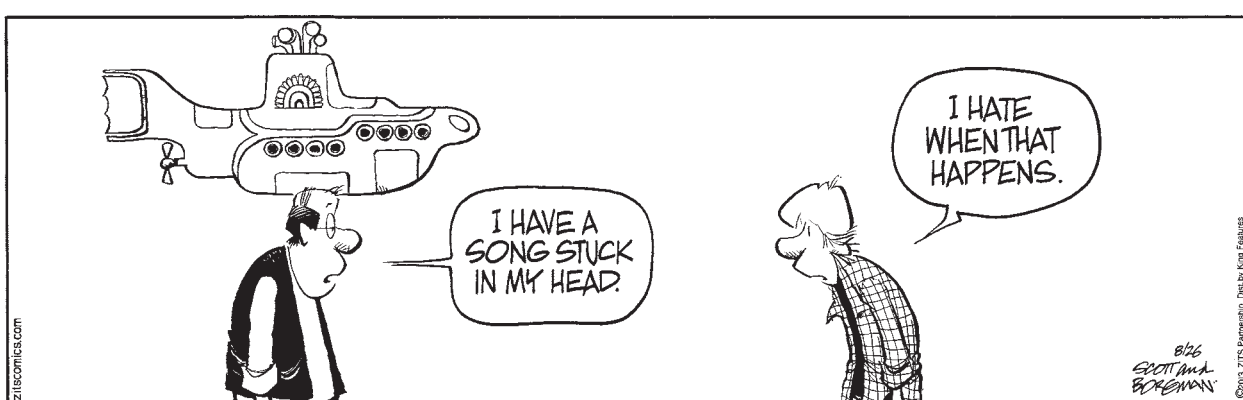
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6			3	4		5	2
		5				3	1
	4			7		9	
			8	1		5	3
9							7
1		2		6	3		
	3		2			6	
8		9				2	
2	7		9	8			4

Difficulty Level ★

8/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

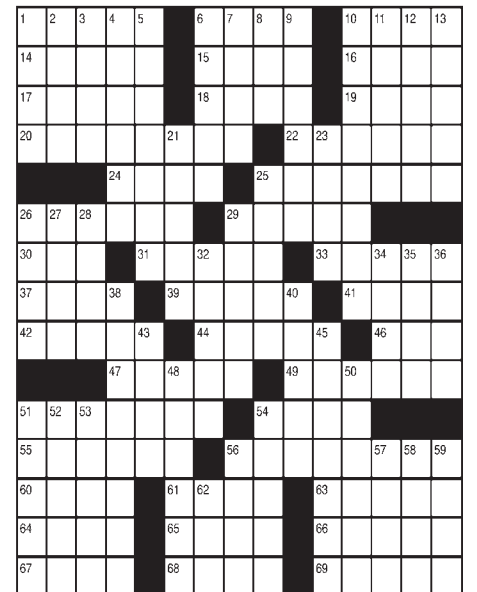
4	9	8	6	3	2	5	7	1
5	2	7	1	4	9	6	8	3
3	1	6	5	7	8	9	4	2
2	6	1	4	8	3	7	9	5
7	5	9	2	1	6	4	3	8
8	3	4	9	5	7	1	2	6
6	7	5	3	2	4	8	1	9
1	4	3	8	9	5	2	6	7
9	8	2	7	6	1	3	5	4

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- Capable
- Game site
- Count calories
- Use a Kindle
- Get educated
- Fence door
- Picture card
- Do-it-yourself restaurant feature
- Leap about; cavort
- Equipment
- Freeloads
- Mr. Einstein
- "The Raven" & "Trees," e.g.
- Name for 13 popes
- Transparent
- Rarin' to go
- Apply finger paint
- Do very well
- Keep for later
- Prank; caper
- Removes skin, as from apples
- Brother of JFK
- Gather grain left by reapers
- Parking __; coin-operated timers
- Attack
- TV's __ the Explorer
- Dozed for a bit
- Clergyman
- Faucet problem
- Singer Clapton
- Set __; shelf
- British peer
- Basin
- Russian leader Vladimir __
- Loafer or pump
- Foot digits
- Icy winter precipitation
- Like pricey ground beef
- Boxing match
- Nut variety
- One living abroad
- Fence opening
- At any time
- Cincinnati team

DOWN

- Holbrook and Linden



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/26/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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IDLE	ANTISEPTIC	
TEE	ERGO	BOSSY
	GAWKS	COT
STAGES	SINews	
WATER	PATTY	HUB
IBIS	RELAY	MILE
GOO	POWER	PARKA
ONSETS	JACLYN	
ONE	BOGEY	
SPOON	VASE	BIN
PANTYWAIST	KILO	
ITCH	ANVIL	IRKS
THEE	STALE	DDAY

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| 48 Firstborn child | 57 Fork prong |
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| | 62 __ de Janeiro |

Churches alter bylaws after U.S. gay marriage ruling

TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Some U.S. churches, worried they could be sued by gay couples, are changing their bylaws to reflect their view that the Bible allows only marriage between one man and one woman. Although there have been lawsuits against wedding industry businesses that refuse to serve gay couples, attorneys promoting the bylaw changes say they don't know of any lawsuits against churches.

Critics say the changes are unnecessary, but some churches fear that it's only a matter of time before one of them is sued.

In a June decision, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that defined marriage as between a man and a woman for purposes of federal law. A second decision was more technical but essentially ushered in legal gay marriage in California. "I thought marriage was always between one man and one woman, but the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision said no," said Gregory S. Erwin, an attorney for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, an association of Southern Baptist churches and one several groups advising churches to change their bylaws. "I think it's better to be prepared because the law is changing. America is changing." Kevin Snider is an attorney with the Pacific Justice Institute, a nonprofit legal defense group that specializes in conservative Christian issues. His organization released a model

marriage policy a few years ago in response to a state-wide gay marriage fight in California. Snider said some religious leaders have been threatened with lawsuits for declining to perform same-sex wedding ceremonies. Dean Inserra, head pastor of the 1,000-member City Church Tallahassee, based in Florida, said he does not want to be alarmist, but his church is looking into how best to address the issue.

Inserra said he already has had to say no to gay friends who wanted him to perform a wedding ceremony. "We have some gay couples that attend our church. What happens when they ask us to do their wedding?" Inserra said. "What happens when we say no? Is it going to be treated like a civil rights thing?"

Critics, including some gay Christian leaders, argue that the changes amount to a solution looking for a problem. "They seem to be under the impression that there is this huge movement with the goal of forcing them to perform ceremonies that violate their freedom of religion," said Justin Lee, executive director of the Gay Christian Network, a nonprofit that provides support for gay Christians and their friends and encourages churches to be more welcoming. "If anyone tried to force a church to perform a ceremony against their will, I would be the first person to stand up in that church's defense." Thirteen states and the District of Columbia now recognize gay marriage. Some Christian denominations, such as the United



City Church of Tallahassee Pastor Dean Inserra stands inside his church in Tallahassee, Fla. on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2013. Inserra's church is researching how they will address the changing attitudes to gay marriage in the courts as well as among the public. "We have some gay couples that attend our church. What happens when they ask us to do their wedding?" Inserra said. "What happens when we say no? Is it going to be treated like a civil rights thing?"

Associated Press

Church of Christ, accept gay marriage. The Episcopal Church recently

approved a blessing for same-sex couples, but each bishop must decide whether to allow the ceremony in his or her local diocese. □



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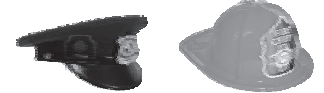
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Desert tortoise faces threat from its U.S. refuge

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — For decades, the vulnerable U.S. desert tortoise has led a sheltered existence. Developers have taken pains to keep the animal safe. It's been protected from meddlesome hikers by the threat of prison time. And wildlife officials have set the species up on a sprawling conservation reserve outside Las Vegas. But the pampered desert dweller now faces a threat from the very people who have nurtured it. Federal funds are running out at the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center and officials plan to close the site and euthanize hundreds of the tortoises they've been caring for since the animals were added to the endangered species list in 1990. "It's the lesser of two evils, but it's still evil," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service desert tortoise recovery coordinator Roy Averill-Murray during a visit to the soon-to-be-shuttered reserve at the southern edge of the Las Vegas Valley last week. Biologists went about their work examining tortoises for signs of disease as Averill-Murray walked among the reptile pens. But the scrubby 220-acre refuge area will stop taking new animals in the coming months. Most that arrive in



In this Aug. 22, 2013, photo, a tortoise sits in the shade at the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

the fall will simply be put down, late-emerging victims of budget problems that came from the same housing bubble that put a neighborhood of McMansions at the edge of the once-remote site. The Bureau of Land Management has paid for the holding and research facility with fees imposed on developers who disturb tortoise habitat on public land. As the housing boom swept through southern Nevada in the 2000s, the tortoise budget swelled. But when the recession hit, the housing market contracted, and the bureau and its local government partners began struggling to meet the center's \$1 million annual budget. Housing never fully recovered, and the federal miti-



In this Aug. 22, 2013, photo, research associate Pamela Flores conducts a health assessment on a desert tortoise at the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

gation fee that developers pay has brought in just \$290,000 during the past 11 months. Local partners, which collect their own tortoise fees, have pulled out of the project. "With the money going down and more and more tortoises coming in, it never would have added up," said BLM spokeswoman Hillerie Patton. Back at the conservation center, a large refrigerator labeled "carcass freezer" hummed in the desert sun

as scientists examined the facility's 1,400 inhabitants to find those hearty enough to release into the wild. Officials expect to euthanize more than half the animals in the coming months in preparation for closure at the end of 2014. The desert tortoise is a survivor that has toddled around the Southwest for 200 million years. But ecologists say the loss of the conservation center represents a harmful blow in southern Nevada for an animal that

has held onto some unfortunate evolutionary quirks that impede its coexistence with strip malls, new homes and solar plants. Laws to protect the panicky plodders ban hikers from picking them up, since the animals are likely dehydrate themselves by voiding a year's worth of stored water when handled. When they're moved, they nearly always attempt to trudge back to their burrows, foiling attempts to keep them out of harm's way. They're also beset by respiratory infections and other illnesses. No more than 100,000 tortoises are thought to survive in the habitat where millions once burrowed across parts of Utah, California, Arizona and Nevada. The animals were once so abundant that tourists would scoop them up as souvenirs. Many quickly realized the shy grass-eaters don't make ideal pets. (For one thing, they can live for 100 years.) And once the species was classified as threatened on the endangered species list, people rushed to give them back. Former pets make up the majority of the tortoises at the conservation center, where they spend their days staring down jack-rabbits and ducking out of the sun into protective PVC piping tucked into the rocky desert floor. Most of these animals are not suitable for release, either infected with disease or otherwise too feeble to survive. Averill-Murray looks as world-weary as the animals he studies. He wants to save at least the research function of the center and is looking for alternative funding sources. □

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'The Butler' tops U.S. box office with \$17 million

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Lee Daniels' *The Butler*" served up a second helping at the U.S. box office, topping the weekend with \$17 million according to studio estimates Sunday.

That was enough to lead all films on a late August weekend known as a dumping ground for studios following their summer blockbusters and before the start of the fall movie-going season. Daniels' historical drama about a long-serving White House butler, starring Forest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey, last weekend opened with \$24.6 million for the Weinstein Co.

Three new releases failed to catch on. The teen fantasy "Mortal Instruments: City of Bones," adapted from the popular young adult book series, opened tepidly in third with \$9.3 million on the weekend and \$14 million since opening Wednesday.

With franchise hopes, Sony Screen Gems has already started production on a sequel, again starring Lily Collins as a New York teenager who discovers she has mystical powers.

Edgar Wright's pub-crawl-gone-wrong comedy "The World's End" opened with

\$8.9 million for Focus Features.

That was a better start for "The World's End," which stars Simon Pegg, than Wright's last film with the actor: 2007's "Hot Fuzz." It opened with \$5.8 million. Playing in 1,549 theaters, "The World's End" did its business in less than half the theaters of "The Butler" or "Mortal Instruments." Despite good reviews, Lionsgate's home-invasion horror flick "You're Next" opened weakly with \$7.1 million.

With a cumulative total of \$52.3 million, "The Butler" is headed for a domestic haul of \$100 million. It has followed the release pattern of another movie about race and domestic service: the 2011 drama "The Help," also released in August. The Weinstein Co. hopes that "The Butler" will similarly lead to Oscar nominations.

Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com, attributed the success of "The Butler" particularly to the marketing power of Winfrey and a savvy choice of a release date with little competition.

"This is a film that you wouldn't want to open in June or July," said Der-



This undated file film image provided by The Weinstein Company shows Oprah Winfrey as Gloria Gaines, left, and Forest Whitaker as Cecil Gaines in a scene from "Lee Daniels' *The Butler*."

Associated Press

garabedian. "The release date that the Weinstein Co. picked absolutely paid off for them."

In its third week of release, Warner Bros.' R-rated road trip comedy "We're the Millers," starring Jason Sudeikis and Jennifer Aniston, continued to thrive. It took in \$13.5 million over the

weekend, bringing its overall total to \$91.7 million.

Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine" became his widest release ever. Sony Pictures Classics expanded Allen's drama of a ruined socialite starring Cate Blanchett to 1,283 theaters.

It made \$4.3 million over the weekend after earn-

ing more than \$10 million in four weeks of limited release.

The 3-D release of Universal's "Jurassic Park," which opened in North America in April, led the overseas market with \$30 million over the weekend, most of that from its opening in China. □

Julie Harris, Broadway star, dies at 87

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Julie Harris, one of Broadway's most honored performers, whose roles ranged from the flamboyant Sally Bowles in "I Am a Camera" to the reclusive Emily Dickinson in "The Belle of Amherst," died Saturday. She was 87.

Harris died at her West Chatham, Massachusetts, home of congestive heart failure, actress and family friend Francesca James said.

Harris won five Tony Awards for best actress in a play, displaying a virtuosity that enabled her to portray an astonishing gallery of women during a theater career that spanned almost 60 years and included such plays as "The Member of the Wedding" (1950), "The Lark" (1955), "Forty Carats" (1968) and "The Last of Mrs. Lincoln" (1972). She was honored again with a sixth Tony, a special lifetime achievement award in 2002. Her

record is up against Audra McDonald, with five competitive Tonys, and Angela Lansbury with four Tonys in the best actress-musical category and one for best supporting actress in a play.

Harris had suffered a stroke in 2001 while she was in Chicago appearing in a production of Claudia Allen's "Fossils." She suffered another stroke in 2010, James said.

"I'm still in sort of a place of shock," said James, who appeared in daytime soap operas "All My Children" and "One Life to Live."

"She was, really, the greatest influence in my life," said James, who had known Harris for about 50 years.

Television viewers knew Harris as the free-spirited Lilimae Clements on the prime-time soap opera "Knots Landing." In the movies, she was James Dean's romantic co-star in "East of Eden" (1955), and had roles in such films as "Requiem for a Heavyweight" (1962). □



This Jan. 11, 1962 file photo shows actress Julie Harris, right, with actor William Shatner star in a Broadway comedy, "A Shot In The Dark" at the Booth Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

Timberlake, 'N Sync take over Video Music Awards

**CHRIS TALBOTT
MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — Suddenly, the MTV Video Music Awards are all about Justin Timberlake.

Timberlake took over the awards Sunday night, wrestling the spotlight away from a rehabilitated Lady Gaga, an X-rated Miley Cyrus and a vengeful Taylor Swift with a medley of hits and the rumored reunion with former boy band mates 'N Sync.

Timberlake — the night's top nominee with early leader Macklemore & Ryan Lewis — also was given the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award by Jimmy Fallon.

"I don't deserve the award, but I'm not going to give it back,"

Timberlake said. "I'm taking this home."

Timberlake, dressed in a black suit and black hat with a red feather, pow-



Justin Timberlake accepts the video vanguard award at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, at the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

Associated Press

ered through a breathless series of solo hits before the other four members of 'N Sync — JC Chasez, Chris Kirkpatrick, Joey Fatone,

and Lance Bass — joined him on stage, opening with "Bye Bye Bye."

"Half of the moonmen I've ever won, I won with those

four guys right there," Timberlake said pointing at his former band mates while holding the Vanguard trophy. "So above all else, I'm

going to share this — we can keep it my house — but I'm going to share this award with them."

Up till then, the ladies of pop music dominated as Cyrus became the rare artist to upstage Lady Gaga. But Swift managed to take the spotlight from both after appearing to utter an expletive when One Direction and rumored former love interest Harry Styles appeared at Sunday night's award show — a moment that lit up Twitter and was memorialized immediately in a GIF online.

She also thanked a former beau for helping her win another moonman trophy for "I Knew You Were Trouble" in the best female video category.

"I also want to thank the person who inspired this song, who knows exactly who he is, because I got one of these," Swift said. "Thank you so much!" □

New biography claims more Salinger books due out

**HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The authors of a new J.D. Salinger biography are claiming they have cracked one of publishing's greatest mysteries: What "The Catcher in the Rye" novelist was working on during the last half century of his life.

Starting between 2015 and 2020, a series of posthumous Salinger releases are planned, according to "Salinger," co-written by David Shields and Shane Salerno and scheduled to be published Sept. 3. The Associated Press obtained an early copy. Salerno's documentary on the author opens Sept. 6. In January, it will air on PBS as an installment of "American Masters."

Providing by far the most detailed report of previously unreleased material, the book's authors cite "two independent and separate sources" who they say have "documented and verified" the information. One of the Salinger books



A 1951 file photo shows J.D. Salinger, author of "The Catcher in the Rye", "Nine Stories", and "Franny and Zooey." The authors of a new J.D. Salinger biography are claiming they have cracked one of publishing's greatest mysteries: What "The Catcher in the Rye" novelist was working on during the last half century of his life.

Associated Press

would center on "Catcher" protagonist Holden Caulfield and his family, including a revised version of an early, unpublished story "The Last and Best of the Peter Pans." Other volumes would draw on Salinger's World War II years and his immersion in Eastern religion.

A publication called "The Family Glass" would feature additional stories about the Glass family of "Franny and Zooey" and other Salinger works.

"Salinger" does not identify a prospective publisher. Spokesman Terry Adams of Little, Brown and Company, which released "Catcher" and Salinger's three other books, declined to comment Sunday. Salinger's son, Matt Salinger, who helps run the author's literary estate, was not immediately available for comment.

If the books do appear, they may well not be through Little, Brown. In the mid-1990s, Salinger agreed to allow a small Virginia-based press, Orchises, to issue his novella "Hapworth 16, 1924," which first appeared in The New Yorker in 1965. But after news leaked of the planned publication, Salinger changed his mind and "Hapworth" was canceled.

No Salinger book came out after the early 1960s, as the

author increasingly withdrew from public life. Over the past 50 years, there has been endless and conflicting speculation over what Salinger had been doing during his self-imposed retirement. That Salinger continued to write is well documented. Friends, neighbors and family members all reported that Salinger was writing in his final years and the author himself told The New York Times in 1974 that he wrote daily, though only for himself.

"There is a marvelous peace in not publishing," he said at the time.

But there is no consensus on what he was writing and no physical evidence of what Salinger had reportedly stashed in a safe in his home in Cornish, New Hampshire. The Salinger estate, run partly by Matt Salinger and Salinger's widow, Colleen O'Neill, has remained silent on the subject since the author's death in January 2010. The two did not cooperate with Salerno and Shields.

Until now, neither Salerno nor Shields has been defined by his expertise on Salinger. Salerno is a Hollywood screenwriter whose credits include "Armageddon," the Oliver Stone film "Savages" and a planned sequel to James Cameron's blockbuster "Avatar." Shields is an award-winning author whose books include the novel "Dead Languages"; a nonfiction work on pro basketball that was a National Book Critics Circle prize finalist; and "Reality Hunger," a self-described "manifesto" for modern literature.

Their 700-page Salinger biography has new information well beyond any possible posthumous fiction. Nine years in the making and thoroughly documented, "Salinger" features many rare photographs and letters; unprecedented detail about the author's World War II years and brief first marriage; a revelatory interview with the former teenage girl, Jean Miller □

Rocks in Space



Gail Collins
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So, which would you rather do: Capture an asteroid or go back to the moon?

This is one of the many interesting issues facing Congress that we probably will not have time to debate once Congress actually comes back next month. Then it'll be nothing but Obamacare and government shutdowns and the occasional discussion about whether Sen. Ted Cruz has managed to dispose of his recently discovered dual Canadian citizenship.

Which I am personally looking forward to a lot. But today let's consider the American space program.

Space exploration is one of the extremely few areas in which there is a lot of bipartisan agreement in Washington. For instance, both parties believe that the United States should be trying to get to Mars. Eventually. Nobody thinks this will happen anytime soon - partly because the technology is so challenging and partly because Congress keeps cutting the space budget. So far, NASA has not shown any interest in the tactic being used by a Dutch company that hopes to establish a Martian colony in about 10 years, with money that would come in part from producing a reality series, somewhere along the lines of "Big Brother" or perhaps "Real Housewives of the Red Planet."

The third point of wide bipartisan agreement is that nobody wants their constituents to be clobbered by an asteroid. Really, this is a priority. The Obama administration is currently promoting an "asteroid grand challenge," in which we're invited "to find all asteroid threats to human populations" and figure out what to do about them.

And - this is good news, people - we've already pinpointed about 95 percent of all the rocks in the solar system that are of planet-mashing size.

I know that you are now instantly focusing on the remaining 5 percent, as well as the multitudinous smaller fellows that are capable of taking out Massachusetts or Paris - or your local shopping center. Everybody is in favor of finding them too, particularly since one grazed Russia earlier this year, causing the House Science Committee to hold a special Threats From Space meeting. Even members of Congress who pooh-pooh the peril of global warming believe in the danger of global asteroid-exploding. I am thinking about Rep. Lamar

Smith, the Texas Republican who heads - yes! - the House Science Committee. And Cruz, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate Subcommittee on Science and Space, who demanded that we "do what needs to be done" to prevent an asteroid from hitting the Earth and smashing into a major American city. Or a Canadian one.

Despite all this cheerleading, there hasn't been all that much money spent on the mission. Discover magazine estimated that over the past 15 years, the United States had spent less money on asteroid detection "than the production budget of the 1998 asteroid movie 'Armageddon.'" In which Ben Affleck won Liv Tyler but the Earth lost Shanghai, much of New York and Bruce Willis. But we were talking about capturing asteroids.

The question is what NASA should do during the really, really long pre-Mars interlude. The White House wants to send an unmanned spacecraft to capture a smallish asteroid, tow it back and put it into orbit around the moon, where we could send astronauts to study it. This would most definitely help us in the race to develop the best "capture bag," and there's pretty wide agreement we would acquire some other useful technology as well.

"This would be the first time humans have, in some sense, rearranged the solar system for their own purposes. So that's exciting," said Tom Prince, director of the Keck Institute for Space Studies at the California Institute of Technology.

Not as far as the House of Representatives is concerned. The Science Committee recently voted to cut all the money for asteroid capture and invest it instead in a new moon landing. There were several objections to the Obama plan, the main one being that it was kind of boring. "Costly and uninspiring," sniffed Chairman Smith. The White House position was that if you wanted to talk about boring, look at a moon landing. "Going back to the moon, something we have done six times, just does not seem to us worth the investment," Lori Garver, NASA deputy administrator, said in a phone interview.

And anyway, what about protecting the Earth from a killer asteroid? I believe I speak for all of us when I say that space exploration is good, but not being hit by a large hunk of galactic rock is even better. The House Republicans could have a point. The asteroid that NASA wants to capture would be way smaller than Killer Visitor dimensions. Although it does seem a little peculiar that they're calling for a dramatic moon-colony initiative at the same time they're cutting the space budget. It's also conceivable that the Science Committee doesn't like the Obama plan because it's the Obama plan. This has been known to happen in the House. Perhaps we should be grateful it hasn't voted to cancel the asteroid-capturing program 40 times. □



This Age of Bubbles



Paul Krugman
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So, another BRIC hits the wall. Actually, I've never much liked the whole "BRIC" - Brazil, Russia, India, and China - concept: Russia, which is basically a petro-economy, doesn't belong there at all, and there are large differences among the other three. Still, it's hard to deny that India, Brazil and a number of other countries are now experiencing similar problems. And those shared problems define the economic crisis du jour. What's going on? It's a variant on the same old story: Investors loved these economies not wisely but too well, and have now turned on the objects of their former affection. A couple of years back, Western investors - discouraged by low returns both in the United States and in the noncrisis nations of Europe - began pouring large sums into emerging markets. Now they've reversed course. As a result, India's rupee and Brazil's real are plunging, along with Indonesia's rupiah, the South African rand, the Turkish lira and more.

Does this reversal of fortune pose a major threat to the world economy? I don't think so (he said with his fingers crossed behind his back). It's true that investor loss of confidence and the resulting currency plunges caused severe economic crises in much of Asia back in 1997-98. But the crucial point back then was that, in the

crisis countries, many businesses had large debts in dollars, so that falling currencies effectively caused their debts to soar, creating widespread financial distress. That problem isn't completely absent this time around, but it looks much less serious.

In fact, count me among those who believe that the biggest threat right now is that policy in emerging markets will overreact - that their central banks will raise interest rates sharply in an attempt to prop up their currencies, which isn't what they or the rest of the world need right now. Still, even if the news from India and elsewhere isn't apocalyptic, it's not the kind of thing you want to hear when the world's wealthier economies, while doing a bit better than they were a few months ago, are still deeply depressed and struggling to recover. And this latest financial turmoil raises a broader question: Why have we been having so many bubbles?

For it's now clear that the flood of money into emerging markets - which briefly drove Brazil's currency up by almost 40 percent, a rise that has now been completely reversed - was yet another in the long list of financial bubbles over the past generation. There was the housing bubble, of course. But before that there was the dot-com bubble; before that the Asian bubble of the mid-1990s; before that the commercial real estate bubble of the 1980s. That last bubble, by the way, imposed a huge cost on taxpayers, who had to bail out failed savings-and-loan institutions.

The thing is, it wasn't always thus. The '50s, the '60s, even the troubled '70s, weren't nearly as bubble-prone. So what changed? One popular answer involves blaming the Federal Reserve - the loose-money policies of Ben Bernanke and, before him, Alan

Greenspan. And it's certainly true that for the past few years the Fed has tried hard to push down interest rates, both through conventional policies and through unconventional measures like buying long-term bonds. The resulting low rates certainly helped send investors looking for other places to put their money, including emerging markets. But the Fed was only doing its job. It's supposed to push interest rates down when the economy is depressed and inflation is low. And what about the series of earlier bubbles, which, at this point, reach back a generation?

I know that there are some people who believe that the Fed has been keeping interest rates too low, and printing too much money, all along. But interest rates in the '80s and '90s were actually high by historical standards, and even during the housing bubble they were within historical norms. Besides, isn't the sign of excessive money printing supposed to be rising inflation? We've had a whole generation of successive bubbles - and inflation is lower than it was at the beginning.

OK, the other obvious culprit is financial deregulation - not just in the United States but around the world, and including the removal of most controls on the international movement of capital. Banks gone wild were at the heart of the commercial real estate bubble of the 1980s and the housing bubble that burst in 2007. Cross-border flows of hot money were at the heart of the Asian crisis of 1997-98 and the crisis now erupting in emerging markets - and were central to the ongoing crisis in Europe, too.

In short, the main lesson of this age of bubbles - a lesson that India, Brazil, and others are learning once again - is that when the financial industry is set loose to do its thing, it lurches from crisis to crisis. □

Palm Beach Plaza Mall New Majestic Carnival Season!



Palm Beach Plaza Mall new majestic carnival season is starting today at Aruba's largest mall.

The Aruba Carnival is a thrilling show of over-the-top pageantry, produced by thousands and delighting and uniting the entire country. Here's the scoop on how it began.

Carnival was born in 1954, as a series of small street festivals. The Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest private social club, was the first to have a pre-Lenten celebration in Oranjestad in February 1944. The Allied victory of World War II was commemorated by an Aruba Festival - a large parade in San Nicolas com-



prised largely of Caribbean-English immigrants who came to Aruba to work at the Lago Oil Refinery. The first steel and brass bands debuted a few years later and small parades sprouted here and there.

Today Palm Beach Plaza

Mall will have a great Carnival Show where you can experience for yourself the taste of Aruba's Carnival culture with the opportunity to take pictures with the majestic carnival dancers with carnival costumes. Come and enjoy the show! □

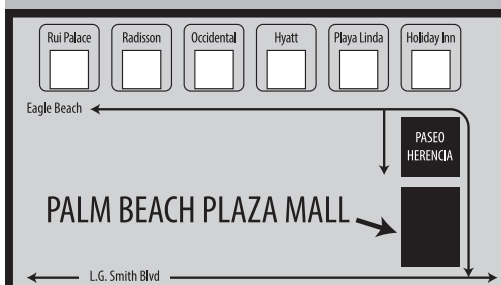


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